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THE TIMES

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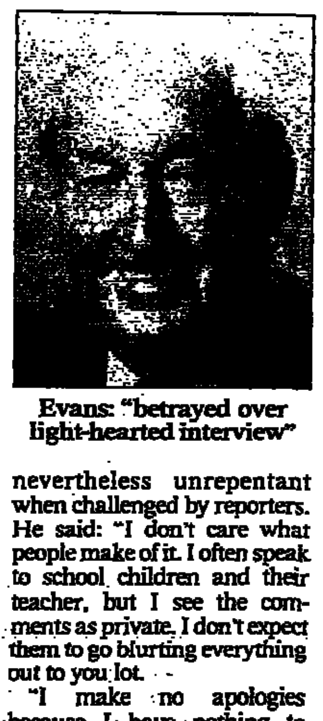
Furore over outburst by right-winger

By James Landale, Andrew Pierce, Arthur Leathley and Philip Webster



Evans: "betrayed over light-hearted interview"

THE Conservative Party was embarrassed last night when one of its MPs was heard heaping personal abuse on Virginia Bottomley and his Labour opponent as part of an attack on the "dreadful" women in politics.

David Evans, the colourful rightwing MP for Welwyn Hatfield, described the Heritage Secretary as "dead from the neck upwards" and said that she was in the Cabinet purely because she was a woman. He went on to deride Melanie Johnson, the Labour candidate in his constituency, saying that she lived with her boyfriend and "three bastard children" and had never done a proper job.

Then for good measure, he said that he did not like John Major, who was "vindictive and not forgiving".

Most of the women at Westminster were "ordinary" and were promoted simply because it looked "politically good", Mr Evans said. That meant some "dreadful" women were in positions of authority.

Mr Evans, who is a member of the Conservative 1922 Committee executive, made the remarks to sixth-formers during a current affairs lesson at Stanborough College, Welwyn Garden City, last Thursday. He gave permission for his answers to be tape-recorded, and a cassette found its way to Anglia Television, who broadcast it last night.

Mr Evans complained later that he had been betrayed over what had been a "light-hearted interview", but he was nevertheless unrepentant when challenged by reporters. He said: "I don't care what people make of it. I often speak to school children and their teacher, but I see the comments as private. I don't expect them to go blurting everything out to you lot.

"I make no apologies because I have nothing to apologise for. The point is that if you have children out of wedlock, they are bastards and there's no getting away from that." He said later, however, that he had made an apology to Mrs Bottomley and claimed she had accepted it.

But Tory strategists voiced dismay, saying that such a controversy was the last thing they needed. "Nothing David Evans has ever said has merited front-page news until now. It could not be worse," one campaigner said.

Central Office held urgent talks with Downing Street and they agreed to create an official wall of silence in the hope that the story would run out of steam. Both issued a curt "no comment".

Mr Evans said in his interview: "So then women get promoted, like Virginia Bottomley, who's dead from the neck upwards, right? I mean, she has been in the Cabinet simply because she is a woman." But he praised Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, as a "different kettle of fish" who would have "made it in any forum".

He also called for the return of capital punishment, suggested that rapists should be castrated, questioned the innocence of the Bridgewater Three and the Birmingham Six, and referred to "some black bastard" raping a girl outside her school.

Of Ms Johnson he said: "She is single, lives with her boyfriend, three bastard children, lives in Cambridge, never done a proper job."

Miss Johnson, 42, was selected from a women-only shortlist before the practice was banned, but she has been an Ofsted inspector for four years after being an NHS manager and is also a magistrate. She and her partner of 18 years have three children, twin daughters aged 12 and a son of ten.

Ms Johnson, who has a good chance of wiping out Mr Evans's 8,000 majority in May, said said last night: "I am used to the hurly burly of politics but David Evans has descended to the gutter. I am standing for election not my

Continued on page 2, col 4

IAN McCARNEY

Melanie Johnson: "I am horrified that David Evans could stoop so low"

It's May Day: Major all but confirms election date

By Philip Webster, political editor

THE Prime Minister paved the way for a six-week general election campaign yesterday when he all but confirmed that it would take place on May 1.

John Major told a BBC phone-in programme that it was a "fair expectation" that the election would be that day, and senior Conservative sources later said that there was no longer any doubt about the timing.

By the time Mr Major addresses the Conservative Central Council in Bath on Saturday week, it will be too late to announce the only other realistic option for polling day — April 10. But Mr Major still intends to keep the political world guessing over when he will formally announce the dissolution of Parliament.

Yesterday, as the arrival in Westminster of the Wirral by-election victor Ben Chapman pushed the Government into a minority, Tony Blair urged Mr Major to call the election now.

Tory chiefs debating the timing have earmarked five possible dates for the announcement. Some close colleagues want Mr Major to avoid naming the day until after the central council weekend — and even to wait until Easter. They argue that if Mr Major's central council speech were treated as part of the formal campaign, Mr Blair and Paddy Ashdown would also receive lengthy coverage in the day's news bulletins. As soon as an election is announced, broadcasters have a duty to give the parties equal treatment.

Other ministers are arguing that because the election date will be known by the end of next week, Mr Major might as well get the announcement out of the way and use the Bath speech to set the ball rolling.

But a senior Tory strategist said: "The Prime Minister believes that the longer he has to get at Labour the better. This is the way he will do it."

Whatever happens, it is accepted that the Bath gathering will mark the launching of the campaign. The party leaders would not start their travelling roadshows until the dissolution, but all the other electioneering activities would be under way.

During his appearance on a Radio 5 Live phone-in, Mr Major attributed Labour's strong lead in the polls to the Tories long period in power. He said: "The greatest difficulty we have at the moment is not with the state of the country, which is patently growing — you can see that with the growth figures in the economy and with the dramatic fall in unemployment.

"All of that is very welcome. But when you have been in government for 18 years you are fighting in a sense a phantom enemy, and I think that is a bigger problem for us than any other."

Matthew Parris, page 2
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Leading article, page 19

Labour ditches free eye test plan

Labour has dropped its commitment to restore free eyesight tests and dental checkups, it emerged last night.

Party aides said the charges would be reviewed after the general election but denied that Labour had any intention of abolishing them.......Page 2

Lego galore in West Country

Youngsters were flocking to beaches in south Devon and Cornwall yesterday as thousands of Lego bricks were washed up.

The bricks had been part of a consignment on its way from Lego headquarters in Denmark to America. The ship carrying them was damaged in storms last month.

Dunblane parents find self-support

As the first anniversary of the Dunblane shootings approaches, the parents of the 16 children who died say they have learnt to cope with their grief through meeting every week to laugh and cry together. One said: "A lot of people say that the Thursday meetings are the highlight of their week"................Page 4

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Troops and police gain upper hand in Albania

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic editor

TROOPS and police appeared to be winning the battle to impose order in much of Albania yesterday, though armed gangs were still roaming the south. Tritan Shehu, the Foreign Minister, said the risk of civil war had hugely diminished.

Army bases in Vlore and Himara were looted, however, as rebels continued to rampage through the main towns. A four-year-old was killed by a stray bullet.

President Berisha yesterday sacked General Sheme Kosava, his chief of staff, accusing him of failing to defend the army baracks. He was replaced him with General Adem Copani, a presidential military adviser. The authorities said more than 1,500 weapons had been looted by rioters over the weekend.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday lifted the blanket ban on reporting from Albania, telling the European Broadcasting Union that it could resume satellite transmission of foreign television reports. The restrictions on the domestic press remained in force.

Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General, yesterday ruled out military intervention in Albania.

New army chief, page 14

Football stars sentenced to await retrial decision

By Lin Jenkins and Adrian Lee

THREE footballers accused of match fixing were facing an agonising wait last night to see whether they must face a fresh trial after a jury failed to reach a verdict.

Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers were said by their lawyers to be extremely disappointed after the jury remained deadlocked despite almost 11 hours of deliberation. With John Fashanu they walked from Winchester Crown Court, dazed after hours of waiting.

The jury of eight men and three women said at the end of the seven-week trial that they could not reach majority decisions on any of the charges against any defendant.

Amid uproar in the court, the judge, Mr Justice Tuckey, was told that the case which, with its surrounding investigations, is estimated to have cost £10 million so far, was likely to be retried as soon as possible.

In the dock the former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper Mr Grobbelaar, the Dutch-born former Wimbledon player Mr Seger, Mr Fashanu, who is better known as a television presenter nowadays, and their alleged go-between, Heng Suan Lim, glanced at each other with obvious despondency.

The four men looked up to the public gallery where their families were sitting as David Calvert Smith for the prosecution immediately announced: "It is the Crown's current intention to seek a retrial."

He will now discuss with the Attorney-General a new date and possibly a new venue which the Crown Prosecution Service said last night should be announced within a week, if there is to be a new trial.

The judge brought a smile from the defendants as he conceded that normal procedure dictates that he might have to "substitute" himself from any new hearing. He asked that things should start moving as soon as possible because the events behind the case had happened in November 1994.

As the four accused walked from the dock facing what their families and solicitors said was "months more worry", Mr Grobbelaar did manage a joke. He turned to a policeman: "Perhaps we should have decided this on penalties, but the trouble is we would have two goalkeepers."

His mother Beryl was less jovial. "I am devastated, naturally. It is disgraceful that they could not reach a verdict."

The end came after the jury sent a note to the judge at 3.43pm saying they could not agree. They filed back into court after ten hours and 59 minutes of deliberation and were asked by the judge whether, if they were given more time, there was any reasonable chance of their reaching majority verdicts on any of the defendants.

The foreman replied: "We don't believe so, my Lord". Asked if they had had enough time, the foreman replied: "Yes, my Lord". The judge said: "I think that's it" and discharged them with his thanks.

Legal sources said last night that the trial had cost £1.5 million, but that the investigation had cost nearer £10 million. A separate inquiry by the Football Association into the players' behaviour will have to wait until the outcome of any future trial.

In the meantime, Mr Segers and Mr Grobbelaar will continue to play for their clubs, Woking and Plymouth Argyle.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Rob Hughes, page 48

Woman stabbed in head on train

By Joanna Bale
and Richard Duce

A WOMAN was in a critical condition in hospital last night after being stabbed in the head on a train in an apparently motiveless attack.

Alison Kennedy, 27, was stabbed with a commando knife as she sat alone in a carriage on the 8.46 pm Waterloo to Guildford service as it approached Clandon in Surrey on Monday night. The six-inch blade penetrated her skull behind an eye, piercing her brain.

After hearing her screams, a passenger in another carriage found Ms Kennedy still conscious with the knife embedded in her head.

Ms Kennedy, who had been travelling from her home in Belfast to visit her sister in Guildford, remained conscious as she was taken to the Royal Surrey Hospital at Guildford. She was later transferred to the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London where she underwent emergency brain surgery.

Members of her family were at her bedside yesterday. Her condition was said to be "critical but stable".

A youth aged 17, of no fixed address, was last night charged with attempted murder.

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Relaxed leading man awaits final curtain

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

SOMETHING had changed in John Major's manner at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. He was not dejected, as he had seemed last Thursday before the votes at Wirral South were counted. But neither was he geed up and punching his way out of a corner, as he can surprise us by doing.

He was simply relaxed. Almost aimless, at times. The Prime Minister rambled his way through a series of unenlightening answers to low-grade questions, more than once losing his grammatical thread. He was going through the motions.

Though it must have been one of the last Question Times for this Parliament and Government, the session was curiously lacking in tension. Only on the first question did hackles rise. It came from Nicholas Budgen (C), the man who succeeded Enoch Powell as MP for Wolverhampton SW. Mr Budgen declared that "strict control of immigration" was the key to good race relations and that Labour planned to relax this control. He invited Mr Major to comment.

Briefly, the mood turned ugly. A group of Labour backbenchers shouted with real fury at Budgen: "Desperate! Disgraceful!" When the Prime Minister rose there was a sudden and total hush. What would he say?

Major, speaking steadily and calmly, said he was not going to lend his voice to anything that imperilled improving race relations. There was a moment of silence as he sat down.

The tone was fastidious, decent and proper, though it was not immediately clear to me that Mr Major's answer was intended to slap Nicholas Budgen down. But it may well have been and that is how MPs took it. Rising next, Tony Blair remarked, generously: "I think the Prime Minister deserves credit for that answer."

The remaining questions and answers failed to match the stature of this short interlude. The Labour leader repeated his litany about "20,000 fewer nurses, 50,000 more managers" in the NHS. In a faintly weary riposte, the PM complained that "for the last five years we have had nothing but *opposition* from the ..." then reflected (perhaps) that "... nothing but opposition from the Opposition" would invite the response "Well they would, wouldn't they?"

"Nothing but opposition from the ... Labour Party," he continued. Phew!

Blair tried to goad Major into commenting on his Health Secretary's recent excursion into the single currency debate, but Major was not goaded.

Stephen Dorrell had been "an outstanding Health Secretary", he said limply, failing to summon enough enthusiasm for Dorrell seriously to dent the latter's hopes of becoming party leader.

Labour's David Winnick (Walsall N) — one of those gnat-like political irritants who frontbenchers keep swatting but never quite squash — bit Mr Major on the ear with a question about the funding of the Tory party. Major, looking bored, directed his answer to the funding of Mr Blair's office.

Eric Illsley (Barnsley Central) quoted to the Prime Minister the opinion of Lord Tebbit on the Deputy Prime Minister, sitting beside him. Michael Heseltine was "tasteless, tacky ... and self-centred". Mr Heseltine lounged back on his bench looking rather flattered.

Earlier, I had watched the Environment Secretary, the civilised John Gummer, answering what was almost certainly the final session of Environment Questions before the election. For you and me, it was simply another Tuesday, another Environment Questions.

For Mr Gummer, 57, the bitter-sweet sensation of standing, perhaps for the last time in his career, at a government dispatch box.

Labour abandons pledge to restore free eyesight tests

By Jill Sherman and Jeremy Laurance

LABOUR has dropped its commitment to restore free eyesight tests and dental check-ups, it emerged last night.

Party aides said the charges would be reviewed after the general election but denied that Labour had any intention of abolishing them. "We have no plans whatsoever to restore free eyesight tests and dental checks," said a spokesman for Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary.

The party was forced into clarifying its position after Tory accusations that Labour was committed to restoring the free checks, which the Tories claimed would cost £216 million. Although Labour has been silent on the issue over the past few years, Tory researchers picked up a recent reply from John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, when asked if free tests should be given as a matter of routine.

Mr Prescott had said: "Yes, I think it should be a right. You've got to find the money to finance it. I agree, and we have to deal with that particular argument." William Waldegrave, the Chief Treasury Secretary, yesterday challenged Labour to deny the spending proposal.

In the 1992 election, Labour said it would reinstate the free tests, which the Tories abolished in 1989 amid criticism from the opposition parties. Since then, successive shadow health secretaries have examined a variety of options, considering restoring free tests to some groups.

Last year Harriet Harman seriously considered introducing free eye tests for nine million pensioners. But yesterday Labour made clear that there would be no such commitment at the general election.

Tony Blair did reaffirm one of the party's spending commitments yesterday, promising that women diagnosed as having breast cancer and needing surgery would have to wait no more than two weeks for an operation. The Labour leader promised to end delays and inefficiency in treatment of the disease, which he said triggered a "private and lonely crisis" for many women.

Government figures show that 10,000 women with breast cancer waited more than two weeks for operations in 1994-95; of those, 2,000 waited more than a month. Labour estimates that ending waiting lists for cancer surgery would cost a third of the £100 million it plans to save in a first year of government by cutting NHS red tape.

Mr Blair's promise, made at the party's annual consultation meeting with women's organisations in London, was greeted with scepticism by a cancer specialist, who said it would be difficult to implement and unlikely to improve survival rates.

Richard Sainsbury, cancer surgeon at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and adviser to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, said the money would be better spent increasing the number of medical oncologists who specialised in drug treatment for cancer.

"If you come to hospital with a palpable cancer you will have had it for at least six months. Two weeks is a drop in the ocean. Most districts still have a single cancer surgeon who has to take holidays sometimes. We would far rather Labour said they would fund improvements to the cancer service recommended by the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman."

Britain has one of the highest breast-cancer mortality rates in the world, with 13,000 deaths a year, although the incidence of the disease is in line with other countries.

Mr Blair said: "If you thought more British women are diagnosed as having breast cancer, you would be wrong. It is just that more British women are dying from it and I simply do not accept that we can do nothing about it. There is clearly something wrong with the way the system is working."

Church of England bishops yesterday joined Labour and Liberal MPs in urging voters to challenge election candidates on what they will do to help Britain's poor. The Church's "Forgotten 30 per cent Group", a group of senior Anglican clergy including four bishops and four archdeacons, said that without action, the conditions facing the poorest in society would deteriorate. The Right Rev Roger Sainsbury, the Bishop of Barking, said: "This is a threat to the fabric of society. If we do not address the needs of this forgotten 30 per cent, crime and violence will increase."

Grobbelaar and wife, Debbie: "trauma of the trial"

Segers and his wife, Astrid: "He will be cleared"

Fashanu and wife, Melissa. He was a favourite in court

Lim: "I am innocent"

Retrial

Continued from page 1

Mel Goldberg, Mr Segers' solicitor, said: "We are very upset that we could not bash their heads (the jury's) together. It is very unsatisfactory for the defendants, the Crown and the lawyers. I am still convinced he will be cleared and so is he."

Mr Grobbelaar held his wife Debbie by the hand and donned his trademark hat as he left court to "recover from the trauma of the trial". David Hewitt, his solicitor, said that Mr Grobbelaar was disappointed at the outcome. "Bruce maintains his innocence ... one thing that has emerged during this trial was that Bruce has never thrown or attempted to throw a football match in his life."

He added that the couple and their two children, Olivia, nine, and Tahli, 12, had been under enormous pressure and asked that their privacy be respected.

Mr Fashanu, now a millionaire businessman, left with his wife, Melissa Kassa-Mapsi, mother of his 15-month-old son Amir, refusing to comment. The former Aston Villa and Wimbledon striker had become a favourite among court staff. During lunch breaks he caused traffic jams as he handed out signed photographs to admirers.

Leaving court with his Irish wife, Cora, Mr Lim said: "I have always maintained my innocence and I will continue to do so."

The four men were accused of conspiring to give or accept money for rigging games for a Far Eastern gambling syndicate. The Crown said the plot was uncovered by a "sting" operation by *The Sun* which filmed Mr Grobbelaar allegedly accepting £2,000 from Christopher Vincent, a former business associate.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman shot in the head on golf course

A woman was in a serious condition after being shot in the head and body while teeing off on the seventeenth hole of a golf course yesterday. Her husband was arrested 15 minutes later and six miles away after crashing his car and is being treated in another hospital in Shropshire for the effects of drugs, police said. The 53-year-old woman was playing with friends at Market Drayton Golf Course.

Inspector Geoff Harding, of Shrewsbury police, said: "A man was hiding in undergrowth and fired several shots at her before leaving the club." The woman, whose name was not immediately released, was shot once in the head and twice in the right side of her body. She was taken to the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford. Police said her injuries were serious but not life-threatening.

Council wins £20m

A judge ruled in the Court of Appeal that the Environment Department must pay the north London borough of Camden an extra £20.9 million in housing subsidy. The Labour-controlled council had argued that there had been a shortfall in its subsidy because of a technical change in its accounting recommended by chartered accountants. The department is considering an appeal to the Lords.

Mountain railway plan

Plans for Britain's first Alpine-style mountain railway are back on track after Scottish Natural Heritage lifted its objections to the £16.5 million development up the side of Cairn Gorm, near Aviemore, in the Highland region, despite opposition from environmentalists. The funicular railway is expected to be able to carry up to 1,200 passengers to near the summit of the 4,084ft high mountain.

UVF 'behind 25lb bomb'

A bomb found outside the offices of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, contained 25lb of a commercial explosive — six times more than originally thought. The type of explosive is often used by the Ulster Volunteer Force, an outlawed loyalist terrorist group. The bomb, which was left at the back of the Sinn Fein offices in Monaghan in the Irish Republic on Monday, failed to explode.

Victory for gardeners

A group of organic gardeners has won a planning battle to remain on land owned by the Duchy of Cornwall in spite of the Duchy's support for a scheme to build houses for young unemployed people on the site. The Duchy had offered to pay for the gardeners to move from the Fairpark Allotments, St Columb Minor, near Newquay, to another site so that 19 homes could be built.

Award for Hurley

Elizabeth Hurley will receive her first serious acting award in the United States later this week. Hurley, 31, also noted as Hugh Grant's girlfriend, will be named Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Dangerous Ground*, yet to open in Britain. The ShoWest award, run by the Association of American Cinema Distributors, has been given for her portrayal of a crack-addicted stripper.

Pirate CDs seized

Britain's biggest haul of pirate compact discs has been recovered by trading standards officials. They found 135,000 CDs worth more than £1.75 million, bound for markets and car boot sales, after raiding a warehouse at an undisclosed location in Oxfordshire. Investigations are continuing and arrests may be made under the Trade Descriptions Act and the Trade Marks Act.

Hunt for 'dead' guitarist

Interpol is expected to investigate a claimed sighting in India of Richey Edwards, the guitarist with the Manic Street Preachers rock group who vanished two years ago. His car was found abandoned near the Severn Bridge, leading to speculation that he had killed himself. However police are taking seriously a British lecturer's claim that he saw Edwards on a bus in Goa last November.

Football song and dance

Football is being set to music in an initiative between professional composers, an orchestra, Premiership players and a dancing sheep. The Music and Football project, run by the East of England Orchestra and Derby County Football Club — nicknamed the Rams — will see local schoolchildren helping to compose a piece of musical theatre based on the tactics of a football match.

Evans outburst

Continued from page 1

children. I am horrified that David Evans could stoop so low as to abuse my three children with this foul word. How many parents will agree with David Evans that inspecting schools and raising standards is not a proper job?"

Janet Anderson, the shadow minister for women, called on Mr Major to dissociate himself from Mr Evans's remarks. And Elizabeth Peacock, the Tory MP for Batley and Spen, said: "It is an outrage. He is the last of the male chauvinist pigs. I thought they had died out with the dinosaurs. But Evans is still walking. He should be ashamed of himself. I feel like kicking him."

But Edwina Currie, the Tory MP for Derbyshire South, said: "I refuse to be offended by this because no women take him seriously. They are extraordinary remarks. I suspect his wife may be waiting for him when he gets home armed with a rolling pin."

John Mansfield, the Tory group leader on Welwyn and Hatfield district council, was shocked by the comments. He said: "I cannot believe he would say such things. I would not dream of uttering such remarks in public even if I thought them. I have to dissociate myself from his remarks. They are an outrage."

Andrew Dodgshon, Ms Johnson's agent, said: "I am appalled. I have known Melanie for four years. She is very proud of her family. But they are not fighting the election. She is. David Evans is despicable."

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Surprise engagement shortens odds on William Hague as next Tory leader

Cabinet's last bachelor finds love in the office

By Carol Midgley

WESTERN MAIL

Miss Jenkins and Mr Hague in London yesterday. Colleagues described their four-month courtship as the best-kept secret in Whitehall

WILLIAM HAGUE, the last bachelor in the Cabinet, was celebrating his engagement yesterday to a Welsh civil servant he calls Jolly Jenkins. The couple said that they fell in love in a Welsh churchyard while she was teaching him the words to the Principality's national anthem.

The Welsh Secretary, who is strongly tipped as a future Tory leader, said that he would marry Ffion Jenkins, 29, next year. His colleagues described their four-month courtship as the best-kept secret in Whitehall.

"He is absolutely head over heels with this woman," said one MP. "It has been difficult for him to keep it quiet."

Until recently, Miss Jenkins, an Oxford graduate and alto singer who plays the harp and clarinet, was the No 2 private secretary at the Welsh Office where she and Mr Hague, 35, worked closely together.

Political friends said that marriage would greatly enhance Mr Hague's chance of leadership. "With an elegant wife and perhaps a couple of kids to follow, he will just about make up the perfect leadership CV. The profile is complete," said one. According to the bookmaker William Hill, Mr Hague's odds of becoming the next leader shortened from 6-1 to 5-1 yesterday.

Yesterday the couple were contemplating more immediate matters. An engagement ring has not yet been chosen but rumour has it that they will buy from Clive Ranger's, a Cardiff jewellery shop that specialises in Welsh gold. "We have not been able to shop together without revealing the secret, so a little expedition will be taking place," said Mr Hague.

The couple met in 1995, when Mr Hague replaced John Redwood as Welsh Secretary and Miss Jenkins was working in the Secretary of State's private office. They have become close only in the past few months. Miss Jenkins began sabbatical leave last week and will return to a senior civil service post in June, although it is not expected to be in the Welsh Office.

Her father is Emyr Jenkins, chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales. Her mother Myra is a Welsh tutor and magistrate and her sister Manon works in the private office of the Prince of Wales at St James's Palace. Her brief was to improve the Prince's standing in Wales.

Mr Jenkins is considered a leading light in the *crachach*, the Welsh Establishment. He worked his way up from being a BBC Wales announcer to become director of the Royal National Eisteddfod, but left in 1993 to take up his post on the arts council.

Miss Jenkins was educated in Cardiff and went on to read English at Jesus College, Oxford, followed by a degree in Welsh at the University of Wales. At Oxford she is remembered as one of the main organisers of the Welsh Society. On one occasion she was rushed to hospital after apparently being cut on the leg by a ceremonial sword at a party.

Many friends and colleagues were surprised by the news yesterday, although Welsh Office aides had suspected romance when, at a recent St David's Day party, Mr Hague had said that he was leaving early to have a meal with Jolly Jenkins.

Julie Kirkbride, the Tory candidate for Bromsgrove, and a close friend of Mr Hague, said that she had had no inkling of the relationship. "I had absolutely no idea, but I am thrilled for them.

"Ffion told me the other day that she was on shopping leave for a bit. Now I know what she was shopping for. She is very bright and very sharp. It will be a real meeting of minds."

Toby Horton, chairman of Richmond Conservative Association in Mr Hague's Yorkshire constituency, said: "This is marvellous news. We haven't met Ffion yet, but William is planning to bring her up to the constituency and we are all looking forward to meeting her.

Mr Horton revealed that the MP had taken him into his confidence before popping the question ten days ago. The relationship had been going on for a while: "William had to be very discreet but now Ffion has taken a sabbatical and the news can come out. I think that is the right way of doing things."

Asked whether a wife would be seen as an asset to Mr Hague's political profile, Mr Horton said: "I am sure she will be an asset whatever William does in the future."

From his office at the Arts Council of Wales, in Cardiff, Mr Jenkins said of his daughter: "This is her big day. We are delighted for her — very happy indeed."

Kirkbride: a close friend, she had had no idea

Boy hit as he plays chicken on motorway

A BOY aged 12 was last night critically ill in intensive care after he was hit by a car on the M53 near Ellesmere Port, in Cheshire, as he played "motorway chicken". Matthew Wellsbury was watched by a group of children, including his sister, as the car swerved but failed to avoid him as he ran from the central reservation across the northbound carriageway near junction nine.

His mother, Julie Wellsbury, 39, said: "Matthew is being taken for a scan and we are keeping our fingers crossed that he will be all right." She was at her son's bedside at Walton Hospital, Liverpool, with her former husband, Tommy.

Wendy Bridge, 31, a friend of the family, said the boy and his brother Michael, 15, decided to climb the embankment to the motorway. Her son Tony, 13, tried to stop them but then heard the accident.

The RAC called for the security of the M53 near Ellesmere town centre to be reassessed. A girl was badly injured at the same place a year ago.

It said motorway chicken was especially popular where motorway networks were close to residential areas, as in Solihull and Birmingham. One of the worst blackspots has been on the M6 between junctions nine and ten, near Walsall. In London teenagers, sometimes intoxicated, taunt motorists on inner-city streets.

Last September an 11-year-old was killed when he played chicken with a police car on the M8, near Glasgow. An 11-year-old girl lost a leg close to Hamilton, near Glasgow, also last year.

A Cheshire Police spokeswoman said road safety officers had been visiting schools warning children of the dangers. "We are saying we realise they have high spirits, that they can be mischievous but this is not the way to vent a sense of adventure," she said.

Breeder who let horses starve is jailed for cruelty

By Dareh Gregorian

A LEADING horse breeder was jailed and banned from keeping animals for life yesterday after leaving her own horses to starve in squalor.

The horses of Leigh-Ann Jeffries, 39, fifteen-year-old Frisbee and four-year-old Heddle, had been weeks away from death when RSPCA inspectors found the emaciated mares in a dingy stable on a farm at Lansdown, near Bath, with no food and a bucket of "black, swamp-like" water.

Frisbee's bones were "hideously prominent", Julie Glynn, prosecuting for the RSPCA, told Bath magistrates. One vet said it was the worst case of emaciation he had seen in 34 years.

Sentencing Jeffries to three months's jail, Francis Hillier, chairman of the magistrates, told her: "The only suitable sentence is to send you to prison because of the extreme suffering to these horses over a period of time. You will be disqualified from caring for any kind of animal for the period of your lifetime."

Miss Glynn had told the court that RSPCA officers were alerted after passers-by saw Heddle standing in a field in a very poor condition. "The water she had to drink was filthy. There was no evidence of food or hay nets."

Jeffries, a student teacher from Warmley, Bristol, had been riding since she was four, had kept horses for 30 years and wrote articles on them. She lectured owners on how to care for their animals. She admitted two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to horses in May last year.

John Sinnott, for the defence, said: "This is a tragic case of a woman who loves horses and who has always loved horses but has let them down. She was suffering from stress herself."

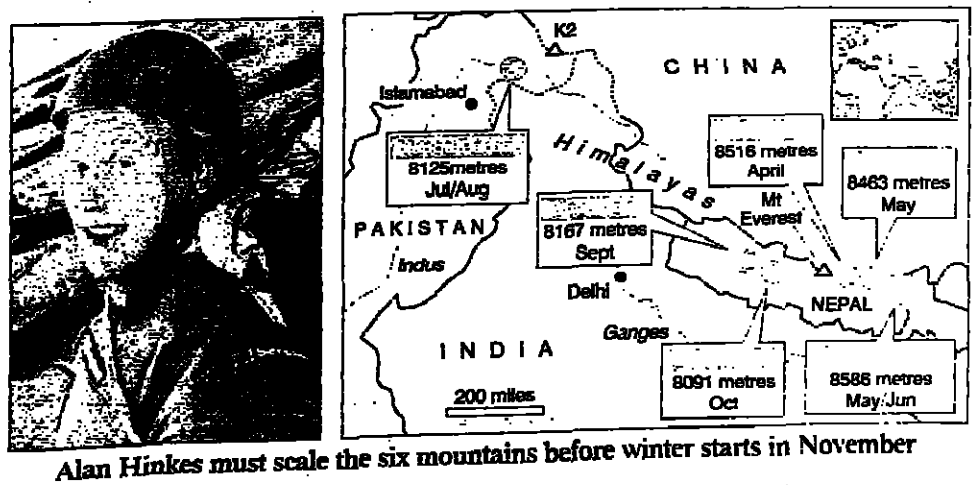
The court was told that the two horses are back to peak fitness after being rehabilitated at a sanctuary.

Detectives reopen file on death of star's son

From Quentin Letts
in New York

POLICE in Minnesota are reopening inquiries into the death of the deformed infant son of the pop star Prince. The child died a week after his birth last October and the cause of death was given then as complications from "clover leaf syndrome", which deforms the skull.

The 38-year-old singer and his wife, Mayte, were said to be devastated by the loss of their first child. Officials in Hennepin County, Minnesota, said yesterday that they were reopening the case after homicide detectives interviewed two women, twin sisters Erlene and Arlene Mojica, who used to work for Prince. They were fired by the singer on December 23. Larry Altman, a lawyer for the women, declined to say what they had told the police, but the local medical examiner confirmed that the case would be reconsidered.



Alan Hinkes must scale the six mountains before winter starts in November

'Mad mountaineer' sets sights on six-peak climb into record books

By Glen Owen

A BRITISH climber dubbed the "mad mountaineer" plans to be the first man to scale six of the world's highest peaks in one year.

Alan Hinkes, 42, who will climb without oxygen, specialises in tackling mountains that rise beyond 8,000 metres and take climbers into the "death zone" where oxygen is one-third of that at sea-level and humans can survive for only a few days.

There are 14 such peaks, all in the Himalayas, and over the past ten years Mr Hinkes has climbed eight. His attempt to bag the remainder in a year would beat the previous record of four "8,000ers" and Mr Hinkes would be one of only five people to have climbed them all. He plans to spend his birthday on top of Lhotse.

Announcing his plans yesterday at the Alpine Club in London, he said the £70,000 expedition would begin in late April at the base camp for Lhotse. He will then tackle Makalu, Kangchenjunga, Nanga Parbat, Dhaulagiri and Annapurna I. He has to finish before winter starts in November.

Mr Hinkes was born in Yorkshire. He has been climbing since 1972. As a camerman he has worked on high-altitude documentaries. He said he had been preparing for ten years. "Some may see me as an eccentric madman but I just want to climb mountains," he said.

Mr Hinkes may fly back halfway through to spend a week with his 13-year-old daughter Fiona, who lives with a former girlfriend.

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‘It is difficult to live a normal life. The only people I can be myself with are other bereaved parents’

Remembering their children who died almost a year ago: Duncan and Liz McLennan with Abigail: David and Karen Scott with Hannah; Barbara and Martyn Dunn with Charlotte; and Ellen and Sandy Petrie with John

Dunblane families face anniversary united in grief

By Alexandra Frean
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ONE year after the Dunblane shootings, in which 16 primary school children and their teacher were killed, the victims' parents say they have learnt to cope with their grief through meeting every week to laugh and cry together.

The meetings, held every Thursday evening in the town's Ecumenical Hall, were suggested to the families by social workers, and have become an emotional anchor in their lives. Les Morton, who lost his daughter Emily in the massacre on March 13, said: "A lot of people talk about Thursday evenings, that the meetings are the highlight of their week, and I can understand that because it is actually very difficult to live what people might think is a normal life. In a funny way, the only people that I can be myself with are the other bereaved parents, because they are the only people who really know how I feel and I know how they feel."

The parents were speaking exclusively on an ITV documentary, *Dunblane: Remembering Our Children*, which will be screened at 9pm next Wednesday. The film includes home video clips and photographs of the dead children.

Ellen Petrie, who lost her son John, said: "I look forward to a Thursday night to go and sit and have a blather with the rest of the girls; where we can sit and have a drink, have a laugh and we're not crying all the time. And then the Friday morning I feel fine."

Her husband, Sandy, said: "You can feel your week falling away, all week, and then it comes to the Thursday night and once you've been there, where the other people know exactly how you feel — and you get that lift."

Liz McLennan, mother of Abigail, said that the members of the families took it in turns to deal with media inquiries, depending on how strong they felt. "There is always somebody ready there to pick up: like in a battlefield, when the guy who holds the banner falls there is always somebody behind to pick up that banner and to go forward."

Martyn Dunn, who lost his daughter Charlotte, said that the other parents had become like an extended family. He and his wife, Barbara, moved to England after the shootings because of his job, but they visit Charlotte's grave in Dunblane regularly. "Even though we are 300 miles away, we know that the extended family are looking after our interests," he said.

Mr Dunn said that all the families had co-operated with the programme-makers. Only eight of the families agreed to be interviewed because the others had not felt strong enough.

David Scott, father of Hannah, said: "We decided to make this film to show how, in these tragic circumstances, we can be positive, how difficult it is day to day, how all of our priorities have changed and how the children and Gwen [their teacher] live on."

The parents said they had only recently started talking about the shooting itself. Most of their energy has been spent getting through one day at a time, and supporting surviving children. Mrs Petrie said she took comfort every day from going into her son's room. "In the morning I open his blind and we've got a woollen doll and I'll say, 'Morning wee man', and I know he's not going to answer me but this helps me through the day."

The parents plan to commemorate the anniversary by lighting candles in their windows. They appealed to the media to leave them alone on the day. They said: "As March 13 approaches, we have requested that Dunblane is free from media attention. We trust that you will respect our privacy and we invite everyone to share in remembering our children and their teacher by lighting a candle at seven o'clock on that evening."

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Palumbo rails against trashy train liveries

By Jonathan Prynn, transport correspondent

PRIVATE rail companies defended the colours sported by their trains yesterday after Lord Palumbo, the former Arts Council chairman, attacked the new liveries as "kitsch". Speaking in a Lords debate on design, Lord Palumbo said he despaired at the colour schemes emerging. "Why should the liveries of privatised rail services be such a rash of kitsch?" he asked.

Six private companies have unveiled the colours for their trains. They range from the menacing dark blue of the Great North Eastern Railway, which has earned its trains the nickname "Stealth Bombers", to the orange and green of Midland Main Line. Virgin, which will operate about half of all InterCity services, plans to paint its trains in its distinctive scarlet, while Great Western Trains has opted for a more sober ivory and green.

Alec Rattray, the account director at Saatchi & Saatchi Design responsible for the Midland Main Line livery, said: "We wanted to signal a change and get away from the idea of the golden age of rail and be more modern. The orange stripes are like 'go-faster' stripes to suggest that sense of speed and zooming along. I think the word 'kitsch' is unkind: one man's kitsch is another man's good taste."

Rail commentators expressed mixed feelings about the colours, the latest in a long history of livery changes since the nationalisation of the railways in 1948. Roger Ford, Editor of *Rail Privatisation News*, said: "I agree that the Midland Main Line colours are very distinctive but I think most passengers care far more about the service inside the trains rather than the colour of the outside. The new liveries are designed to be seen from the trackside and who stands there apart from train spotters and photographers?"

Older rail buffs still hanker after the distinctive colours of the "Big Four" private companies that were amalgamated to form British Railways — the chocolate and cream of Great Western Railway, malachite green of Southern Railway, teak brown of London & North Eastern and maroon of the London, Midland & Scottish Railway.

Two other operators announced their liveries. South West Trains is to use the Stagecoach bus company corporate colours of red, blue and orange, and Connex South Eastern will be white and blue with yellow stripes.

New trains, page 26

Sheepdip poison plea farmer is sent to jail

By Michael Hornsby

A FARMER was yesterday found guilty of attempted murder despite his plea that sheepdip poisons had made him incapable of controlling his actions.

Robert Billings, 60, was sentenced to nine years in prison for shooting George Foster in November 1993. Billings, from Warninglid in West Sussex, was given 12 years in jail for the crime in 1994. But the court of appeal quashed the conviction last July after hearing that new evidence about poisoning by the organophosphates in sheep dip had not been available at the original hearing.

The defence at the new trial at Lewes Crown Court said that the chemicals either by themselves or in combination with severe alcoholic intoxication, had rendered Billings unable to form a specific intent to kill. It was the first time that the effect of exposure to the insecticide used by tens of thousands of sheep farmers had been offered as a defence in a criminal trial. Hundreds of farmers claim to have suffered varying degrees of ill health after dipping sheep, from 1975 to 1992.

CORRECTION

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was educated at Harrow County Boys' School and Cambridge, not Harrow, as reported on March 2.

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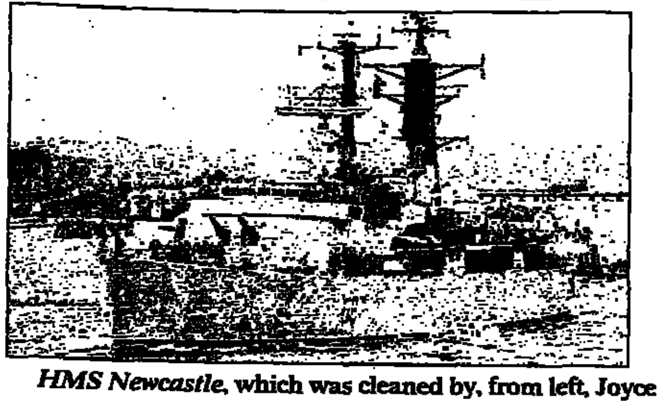
Cleaning ladies go on board to keep destroyer shipshape

By Shirley English



SOLENT NEWS AND PHOTO AGENCY

HMS Newcastle, which was cleaned by, from left, Joyce Wallace, Jackie Healy, Liz Henry, Avis Innes, Mitch Bacon and Eve Peden, who joined the all-male crew after signing the Official Secrets Act

SIX Scottish cleaning ladies have made naval history by joining the all-male crew of a Royal Navy warship during trials at sea, it emerged yesterday.

HMS Newcastle set sail with the civilian Mrs Mopps on board because of a shortage of able seamen. The women, aged between 18 and 43, were drafted in to carry out general duties in the galley and dining hall areas between November 9 and February 3 this year. They had to sign the Official Secrets Act before boarding the Type 42 air defence destroyer and embarking on the three-month trials in British waters alongside 220 navy personnel and soldiers from 3 Para, the affiliated regiment.

None of the six employees from the Aadvark Cleaning Company, in Dunfermline, Fife, had been to sea before and had to take regular doses of anti-sea sickness tablets. Yesterday the Royal Navy said that the presence of the civilian cleaners on the 4,500-tonne warship freed the available HM Forces to "concentrate on other duties".

The women were trained in sea survival and firefighting before the destroyer set sail. They had separate accommodation and their own mess and showers. Unconfirmed reports say that they received a £20-a-week bonus.

Liz Henry, 44, the cleaner's supervisor, said: "None of us had ever been to sea before on a warship so when they put the idea to us we thought we would give it a bash. It's an experience I would not have missed for the world. It was really quite exciting."

Three of the cleaners were married with children and one was replaced early on because of sea sickness. The longest spell spent at sea was two weeks.

Jackie Healy, 18, from Dunfermline, was the last to join the team, as the replacement, and enjoyed herself so much she now wants to join the Royal Navy. "I really enjoyed being on board *HMS Newcastle*. It was a laugh," she said.

Rodney Currie, manager of Aadvark Cleaning Company, in Dunfermline, said it was a marvellous opportunity for the women. He said that the firm had already had a contract to clean ships during refits at Rosyth and was asked if staff would be interested in taking part in the sea trials. There was a flood of volunteers.

Mr Currie said: "The women were terribly excited when they went, and when they came back for Christmas they were full of stories. We do a lot of navy work and it's great when our staff get a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity such as this to go to sea. They built up a very good relationship with the ship's company. I think everyone got on well."

He said that on land their job had been to jet-spray clean the ship's superstructure, including the missiles, gun turrets and lifeboats. But at sea they concentrated on duties in the dining room and kitchen. The company is part of Aadvark Cleaning Company in Portsmouth, which has had contracts with the Ministry of Defence for eight years.

The women joined the vessel at Rosyth and sailed to Portsmouth where most of the trials took place. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the women did a valuable job during their time on board. But he said there was nothing unusual in using civilian staff, although that was the first time civilian cleaners had set sail.

He said: "It is standard procedure after a ship's refit to take on board civilian personnel but usually it is specialists, such as engineers. In this case the ship took six contract cleaners to make sure that the Royal Navy personnel were able to concentrate fully on other duties."

The Royal Navy emphasised that the ship was undergoing only trials during the time the cleaners were on board. *HMS Newcastle* is now fully operational and the six temporary seafarers have returned to their normal duties on land.

More defence cuts a risk to national security, MPs say

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

FURTHER cuts in defence spending will "jeopardise the defence of the realm", an all-party Commons committee said yesterday.

MPs on the Commons Defence Committee said there was a well made case for reversing some of the cuts imposed under the Government's Options for Change review in 1990 and Frontline First in 1994. Understaffed units, particularly in the infantry, were suffering.

The committee reported that the Ministry of Defence was going to save £85 million in salaries in the current financial year because of the staff shortages, most of it from Army pay. The projected savings in future years would rise to £120 million, the MPs said. The defence budget, however, was not being reduced because the savings were being spent elsewhere in it.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, told the MPs that he was not happy about the situation and would prefer to have the forces fully manned. But the committee said that the shortages in the Army looked set to last for at least another three years. The present undermanning was 5,350, which was forecast to fall to 4,700 by April, to 4,000 in April 1998 and to about 3,000 in 1999.

The shortages had created a vicious circle, the committee said. Soldiers had to work longer hours and spend more time away from home, which resulted in more leaving the Army.

The MPs said: "We insist that the defence spending plans set out in the 1996 Budget must at least be maintained in real terms in future years."

The committee said that major equipment programmes would be vulnerable to delay or cancellation because a large number of them were due early next century. In the financial year 2003-2004, the programmes for an Horizon-class frigate, the Eurofighter combat aircraft, an upgraded Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft and a new RAF anti-armour weapon would be in their peak years of expenditure.

The committee also disclosed that there were 116 outstanding equipment requirements, many of which were very expensive and were also due in service at the same time. They included the Astor airborne surveillance system and Batch 2 Trafalgar class hunter-killer submarines.

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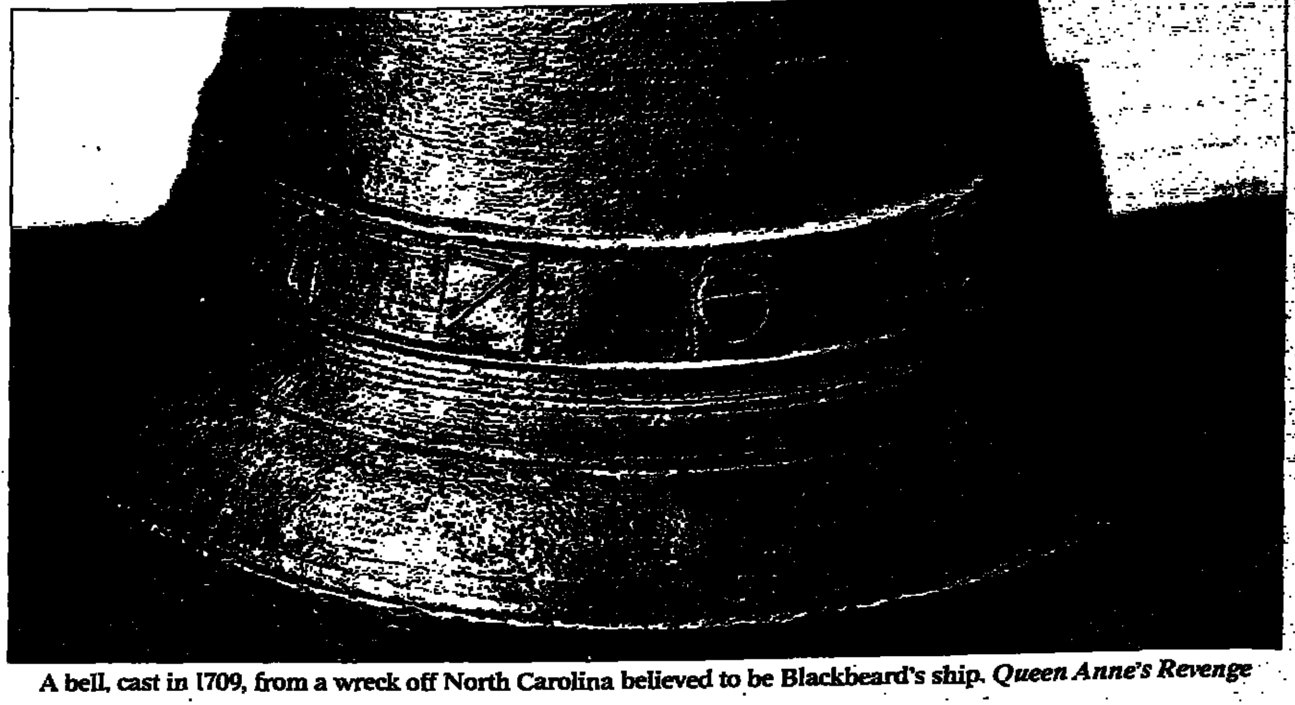
Ship discovered off American coast rings a bell

SCOTT SHARPE / REUTERS



A bell, cast in 1709, from a wreck off North Carolina believed to be Blackbeard's ship, *Queen Anne's Revenge*

Sea wreck renews hunt for Blackbeard's skull

By Damian Whitworth

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

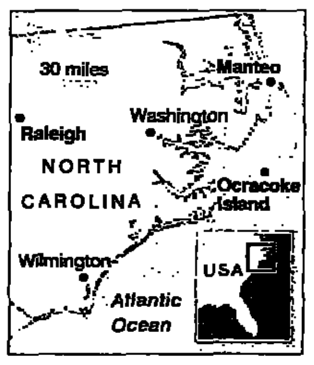
Blackbeard, right, fighting First Lieutenant Maynard. Shortly after, he lost his head

THE almost certain discovery of Blackbeard's ship has raised hopes that the publicity will solve the riddle of what happened to the notorious pirate's skull. After a Highlander serving with the Royal Navy sliced Blackbeard's head off with a broadsword, his skull was said to have been lined with silver and used as a drinking vessel in the taverns of the North Carolina coast.

The wreck discovered by American archaeologists 200 yards off North Carolina — the exact site is being kept a secret to deter modern pirates — is believed to be the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, the biggest pirate ship of the time with more than 40 guns. It was hailed yesterday as the most important relic of the golden age of piracy.

David Cordingly, a world expert on pirates and author of *Life Among The Pirates*, said the only other pirate wreck of note was the *Whidah*, which belonged to the rather less celebrated Black Sam Bellamy. The prospect of raising the *Revenge* was "very exciting. This would be the greatest find, very little has been left behind by pirates and Blackbeard was the most famous of all."

Edward Teach, an Englishman who became known and feared as Blackbeard, created mayhem throughout the Caribbean and along the eastern coast of America up to Virginia in the early 18th century. He pioneered psychological warfare by spreading stories about himself. "He doesn't seem to have been terribly cruel: he doesn't seem to have gone in for torture," Dr Cordingly said. "But he was outrageous. His big thing was to go in and blockade a whole town. Often he was really only after a medicine chest, because all his crew had syphillis. Blackbeard was the most colourful and famous pirate because his death was so dramatic."



Contemporary accounts of his grisly demise in 1718 are found in salt-stained logbooks kept by the captains of the Royal Navy ships that ensnared him, from a report in the *Boston News Letter* and in Captain Charles Johnson's *The General History of Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pirates*.

The Governor of Virginia, exasperated by the failure of his counterpart in North Carolina to "extirpate this nest of vipers", had asked the Royal Navy to go after Teach. They brought their vessels alongside his in the early morning and woke Teach from a drunken stupor.

Blackbeard and Robert Maynard, a first lieutenant, fought with swords and took shots at each other. Teach was wounded but fought on. The *News Letter* reported: "One of Maynard's men, being a Highlander, engaged Teach with his broadsword, who gave Teach such a cut on the neck, Teach saying *Well done lad*; the Highlander replied, If it be not well done, I'll do it better. With that he gave him a second stroke, which cut off his head, laying it flat on his shoulder."

Local legend says that when the headless corpse was thrown overboard it swam several times round the boat.

The head was said to have been bought from Maynard by a citizen of Bath, North Carolina, boiled, and the skull lined with silver. It was reported to have been used in taverns along the East Coast as a drinking vessel. Now its location is unknown. "If all this fuss about the wreck could unearth the skull again, it would be wonderful," Dr Cordingly said.

Blackbeard is the inspiration behind a cottage industry in the parts of America that he terrorised. There is a Blackbeard museum on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, and a Blackbeard Internet site is run from Manteo in the same state. It lists the seafarer's romantic adventures: he had 12 wives, one of whom was a 16-year-old from Bath.

Residents of the islands where the wreck was found are delighted and remain fiercely loyal to Blackbeard. Jim Beach, manager of the *Queen Anne's Revenge* seafood restaurant on Roanoke Island, said yesterday: "Blackbeard was a fascinating guy and we are proud of him. He was certainly a despicable fellow, but we hold him in high regard."

Nelson's hair saved grandson

NELSON'S blood may have been in his veins, but the grandson of Britain's greatest naval hero was not of a military disposition.

In fact, according to a letter to be sold at auction, Horace Nelson Ward's mother went to considerable lengths to ensure that he avoided having to follow in his grandfather's footsteps after being called up in 1848.

Horatia Nelson Ward, the illegitimate daughter of Nelson's liaison with Emma, Lady Hamilton, apparently even went so far as to "bribe" Sir William Burnett, an Admiralty official, by sending him a lock of her father's hair. In an accompanying letter she says: "Permit me again to thank your for your kindness to my son." Now the lock of dark brown hair and the letter are to be sold at Bonhams in London. They are expected to fetch up to £3,000 on March 13. Alexander Crum Ewing, of Bonhams, said: "The evidence suggests that her gratitude could have been for excusing her son from his naval commitments. The gift might have acted as a guarantee, allowing Horace the freedom to become a clergyman rather than following a career in the Navy. It is recorded that when her son was called up, Horatia burnt the papers."

Gala queen misses out in unequal contest

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

GALA queen contests, long a fixture at fêtes across Scotland, are under threat after a local authority ruled that they do not conform to equal opportunities guidelines.

Fife council has banned the Miss Craigtoun competition at Craigtoun Country Fair, the largest fair in Fife, which is run by the council each May near St Andrews.

The girl chosen presents prizes at the fair and represents the area. But the council's East Area Community Services Committee has decided that the reigning Miss Craigtoun, Alison Hughes, 17, will be the last.

Susan Clark, a committee member, said: "We feel that the contest did not reflect the true spirit of equal opportunities and placed too much emphasis on how a person looks. We suggested to the advisory group that the fair might want to investigate an appropriate alternative event."

David Sommerville, head of Fife council's community services department, said other such competitions would be looked at in exactly the same way. However, gala queen contests held by voluntary groups would not be affected. Edinburgh council has also banned gala queen contests, saying they are outmoded.

The decision has angered some councillors. James Braid, who chaired the judging committee for Miss Craigtoun, said the contest was not about beauty. "There is no shortage of people who wanted to take part."

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Parents must pay for youth crime, Howard declares

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

PARENTS could be ordered to pay compensation for acts of vandalism commited by their children or to keep them under night curfew under government proposals to tackle youth crime outlined yesterday. Parents who do not comply might find themselves guilty of a criminal offence and subject to further penalties. Courts could impose fines of up to £1,000, curfews, electronic tagging or confiscation of driving licences.

The proposed "parental control order" was announced by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, as part of an initiative to combat youth crime, which costs £1 billion a year. Mr Howard's Green Paper, *Preventing Children Offending*, also targets children, including those younger than ten, at risk of "going off the rails". A national network of child crime teams, drawn from police, probation officers, teachers, social workers and health service workers, would identify children likely to offend. The teams would refer the children, and parents if appropriate, to suitable schemes — to be tested in pilot projects — to divert them from crime. They would also set up data bases of problem families. "Our strategy is to tackle crime at its roots and to give children the best chance of growing up as law-abiding adults. The aim is to act before the child has offended," Mr Howard said. The Green Paper says that 10 to 15-year-olds make up 14 per cent of known offenders and 10 to 17-year-olds 26 per cent.

Mr Howard ruled out lowering the age of criminal responsibility below ten, but the plans would enable children younger than that to be targeted, he said.

Children would not need to have committed any offence to be referred by the teams. Families could be referred if they showed "the existence of a number of risk factors known to be associated with criminal activity, such as poor parenting, persistent truancy, a sustained pattern of antisocial behaviour at school, or associating with known offenders". Mothers and fathers might be sent for training in parenting skills. Magistrates or councillors could be called in to add weight to the warnings.

The parental control order would be used by courts where parents were ineffective in exercising care or control of children of any age, with no lower limit and even where no offence had been committed. Conditions could be attached, such as requiring parents to take children to and from school; to remain at home during certain hours or make reparation for criminal damage.

Mr Howard said that parents had the primary responsibility for ensuring that children knew the difference between right and wrong and respected the law: "There is a small minority of parents who do not bring up their children responsibly and shun support that is offered."

The new controls could be imposed for up to three years and would be used where the child had behaved in a way likely to lead to an offence, which had resulted in an offence or — if under ten — would amount to an offence if it had been committed by an older child.

Mr Howard insisted that his plans bore no relation to Labour's youth crime proposals which, he said, contained no detail. Labour was proposing "some kind of caution-plus outside the courts system, which is significantly different from a court-ordered caution".

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said the government proposals were a "poor and partial imitation of Labour" plans.

Paul Cavadino, chairman of the Penal Affairs Consortium, said: "The Green Paper is a peculiar mixture of constructive ideas to prevent delinquency, and punitive parent-bashing measures which will do nothing to cut youth crime." Mary Honeyball, general secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said: "Parents of children who commit offences generally require help and support. Many are struggling to cope. Fines and curfews will only increase the feeling of inadequacy."

PILOT SCHEMES

The idea of nipping criminal behaviour in the bud by identifying children at risk and offering support comes chiefly from the United States, but it is already being tested in projects across Britain. Three kinds have attracted government attention:

■ HOME START: A network of nearly 200 home-visiting schemes, which uses experienced parents as trained volunteers to work alongside families with pre-school children. Families referred may be in difficulty because of domestic violence, suspected abuse, debt, children's behaviour or other reasons. Research findings taken from 90 families show that 60 per cent of mothers were "very satisfied" with the service.

■ CITIES IN SCHOOL (UK): has devised a "bridge school" allowing teenagers excluded from school to pursue further education and work experience. It is also responsible for programmes designed to reintegrate into schools younger children who have been permanently excluded. In the past three years, 75 projects have been set up. One in three pupils went on to further education and one in four to youth training.

■ FAIRBRIDGE: personal development programmes with demanding outdoor activities for those aged 14 to 25 at risk of truancy, school exclusion, long-term unemployment, drug misuse and crime. Monitoring of the project found 81 per cent of participants did not reoffend within a year and 8 per cent found other jobs.

CHRIS HARRIS

Frederick Forsyth and his wife, Sandy, with the insignia of the CBE after his investiture yesterday; below, Dame Barbara Mills, DBE, and her husband, John

Jackal has his day at the palace

THE thriller writer Frederick Forsyth met the Queen yesterday and said afterwards that the 500 people present at the Buckingham Palace investiture were more likely to be a cross-section of Britain than the audience at the controversial Carlton Television debate on the monarchy in January.

The author of *The Day of the Jackal* was at the Palace to receive his insignia of the CBE, which was announced in the New Year's Honours List a week before the studio debate in Birmingham, during which he had angrily defended the Royal Family against noisy critics.

After the ceremony Mr Forsyth said all walks of life had been represented. "At Birmingham you got a lot of people with nothing better to do and a lot of people from the inner cities who just wanted to slag off the Royal Family. That was a very loaded audience."

Mr Forsyth said the Queen did not mention his part in defending her family. "She asked if I intended to write another book and I said time alone will tell."

Of his decision to speak up for the monarchy during the television debate, he said: "I felt the dice had been loaded. It became personal instead of theoretical as I had been told it would be. I did not see why I should sit there and say nothing. I got combative."

Among the hundreds of guests being honoured from all walks of life yesterday were senior civil servants and company chiefs, charity workers, a physiotherapist, museum warder, postman and newsvendor. Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions, invested as Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, was at the palace with her husband, John, now fully recovered after being injured during a mugging in 1995.

Geoffrey Dear, Inspector of Constabulary, who was being knighted, was there with his father, Bill, 83, a policeman for 30 years until he retired as a sergeant in 1963, and his son Simon, 34, a police constable based in Alton, Hampshire.

NEWS IN BRIEF

No-kissing zone for college

An Oxford college has appointed a "petting officer" to patrol its junior common room after splitting it into kissing and non-kissing zones. Exeter College voted for the move after members complained they were "offended and nauseated by promiscuous activity" in the common room and dinner queue.

Roger Evers, a third-year classics student and social officer at the college, has been asked to enforce the rule.

Heroin raids

Police have arrested 20 suspected heroin dealers in dawn raids in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and London after a surveillance operation lasting five months. Detectives believe they have cut off the main source of the drug in Hampshire.

Actors' strike

All 80 subsidised regional theatres could be shut down by strikes after Equity, the actors' union, rejected a pay offer. The union is pressing for a minimum £250 per week gross salary for its members: the Theatrical Management Association has offered £200.

Fewer fake notes

Forged money seized in Britain dropped to £10 million in 1996, compared with £29 million in 1995. The National Criminal Intelligence Service says this is because it has worked with regional crime squads to put many counterfeiters behind bars.

Battle remains

More than 100 skeletons unearthed during excavations at a former primary school are believed to be victims from the Battle of Lewes in East Sussex in 1264. More than 2,000 people died in the battle. The remains will be reburied on consecrated ground.

Mary coin sold

A rare coin from the reign of Mary Queen of Scots fetched £80,500 at auction. The 1558 gold ducat depicts Mary and her husband and is thought to be one of only five surviving examples. It was bought by an anonymous collector at Spink and Son, London.

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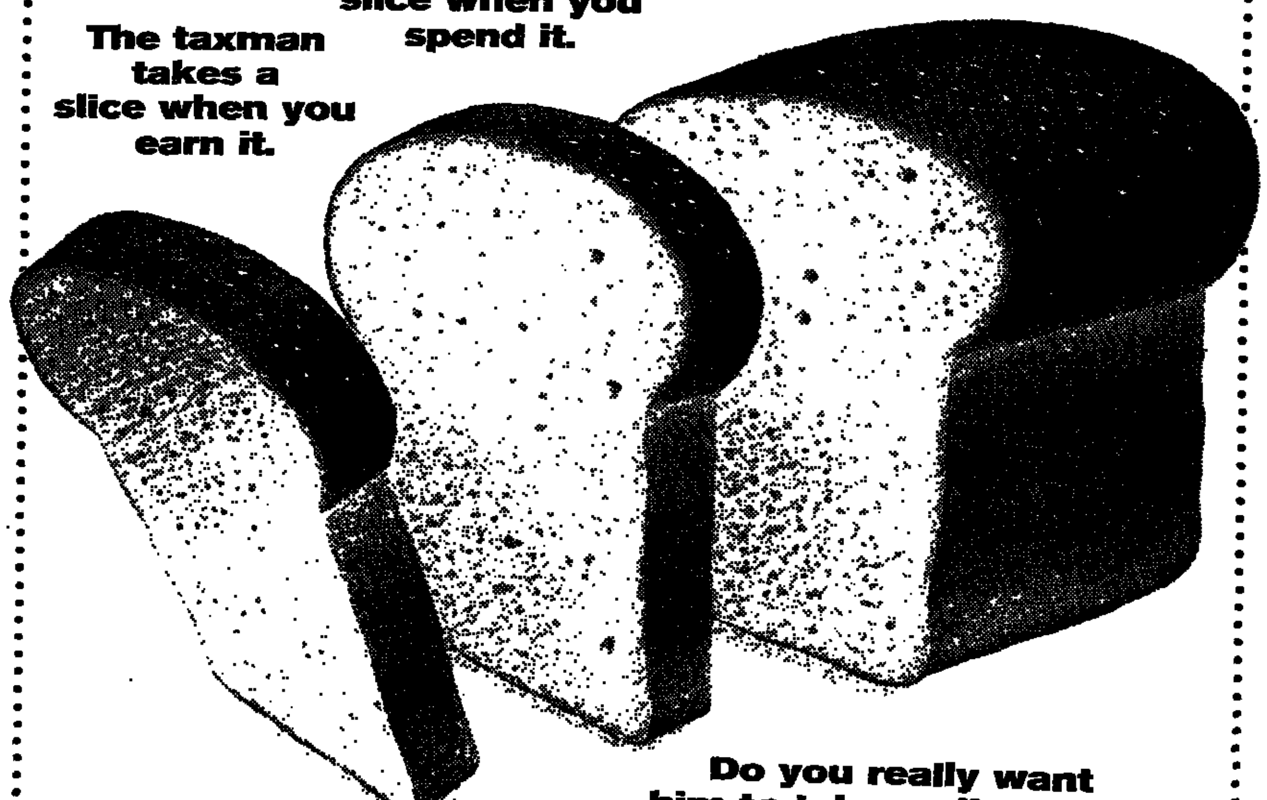

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Hamilton verdict set to be delayed beyond the election

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

THE former Trade Minister Neil Hamilton is likely to fight the general election with the inquiry into cash-for-questions allegations against him remaining unfinished.

Fresh delays have disrupted the long-running Commons disciplinary investigation into accusations that he accepted gifts to table questions to ministers. A potentially explosive report into his business dealings will not be ready until the end of this month, leaving MPs insufficient time to consider its findings before the Commons rises for the election.

Mr Hamilton faces the prospect of being suspended as an MP if any of the more serious allegations against him are upheld, although he has strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner, was due to submit a report to the disciplinary committee last week. However, new contradictions in evidence submitted to the inquiry in the last week have forced him to postpone publication.

Sir Gordon and his two assistants are understood to have been "overwhelmed" by contradictions contained in oral and written evidence submitted during the four-month inquiry.

The latest delay is expected to leave senior MPs on the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges with an impossible task to agree a final report into Mr Hamilton's affairs before the election. If the report had been completed by last week, the committee would have had time to decide whether to publish Sir Gordon's report in full or to hold public hearings then write their own report. Earlier complications had already dashed Mr Major's hopes, voiced last October, that the inquiry would be completed "well this side of a general election".

Mr Hamilton's fate may well depend on when Tory business managers' decide to dissolve Parliament. If an Easter recess is called, with MPs returning for the first few days in April, the standards committee will be able to meet during the recess, and publish its report when the Commons returns. However, if Parliament is dissolved before Easter, the committee will not be able to continue its work beyond the dissolution.

Some Labour MPs are seeking assurances that there will be a pre-election report put to the Commons, arguing that its conclusions could have a crucial bearing on whether Mr Hamilton stands as a the general election candidate for his Cheshire seat of Tatton. However, senior Labour figures are more relaxed, saying that they would prefer to decide Mr Hamilton's future after the election.

Hamilton: accused of taking cash for questions

Mr Hamilton is understood to be determined to press for a public hearing so that he can defend himself against a range of allegations concerning his dealings with the lobbyist Ian Greer and Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, who claims that he paid Mr Hamilton to ask questions in the Commons. Such a move, which has the support of several MPs on the standards committee, could pave the way for a series of public hearings involving other figures central to the inquiry, leading to further delays.

The 11-member committee had prepared for a series of late-night sessions to try to complete the report, as well as leaving open the possibility of continuing its inquiry during the recess.

Sir Gordon was pressed by Mr Major to complete his work as quickly as possible, and report well before the general election. Mr Major agreed to pass to Sir Gordon any relevant documents and said: "In the interests of natural justice, I am determined that this matter shall be fully examined."

Major puts his body language to best use

■ **John Major tested his powers of communication on a radio phone-in yesterday. Peter Barnard assesses his performance**

THE bizarre prospect of John and Norma Major queuing outside a Huntingdon trattoria while hard-pressed Italians desert such eateries in favour of the cheaper Irish bars that are springing up in Rome was raised in the space of an otherwise unconnected three minutes yesterday.

Mr Major was supposed to begin answering phone-in questions at 10.45, but at that time BBC Radio 5 Live was still running a programme called *Eurofile*. Listeners expecting the Prime Minister instead heard that Italian youngsters, strapped for cash due, no doubt, to the strictures surrounding currency convergence, had given up eating pasta of an evening in favour of drinking Guinness.

At 10.48 the phone-in began and the first questioner wanted to know why Mr Major did not spend more time extolling the economic recovery by "showing photos of packed airports in summer and winter". Also restaurants. Mr Major agreed that it was "very difficult to get in restaurants". This may explain why he has in the past been spotted in a Happy Eater.

There were 36,000 callers, 16 of whom got on air. Few qualified as friendly fire. Nick, a fisherman from Cornwall, said: "Ten years ago 80 or 90 per cent of fishermen were Tory, now Tory is a four-letter swear word." Come dawn on Newlyn fish quay, one imagines the air reverberating with cries of: "The Tory Spanish have caught all the Tory haddock."

The questioners rounded up the usual suspects: crime, health, education. And Mr Major chanted the usual mantras. There was an exciting moment when he announced the election date. Well, Diana Madill, the presenter, said: "So is it a fair expectation to have it as May 1 do you think?" Mr Major said: "Well there is a fair expectation but I think I'll announce it in the normal constitutional way."

The Prime Minister is a better communicator on radio than on television or in the Commons. Body language matters on television, but Mr Major doesn't have any. In the Commons, Mr Major comes across as a soft man doing a poor impression of a hard one. On radio he is warmer: he comes over as a decent man.

But I detected that the Prime Minister is preparing himself for defeat. Asked what was his main problem, he said: "Eighteen years is the principal problem . . . when you've been in government for 18 years you're fighting in a sense a phantom enemy."

The last question was about Mr Major's beloved Chelsea: had Chelsea deserved the penalty that won them a Cup tie against Leicester City? "I don't think it was a penalty," Mr Major said, but added: "It's a hell of a job being a referee." He sounded wistful, as if wishing he had handed out more red cards in Cabinet, somewhat earlier in the game.

TV advert warns of sectarian violence

By Audrey Magee
Ireland Correspondent

THE horror of sectarian violence was portrayed in a public information film broadcast on television in Northern Ireland for the first time last night.

The 80-second film is an attempt by the Northern Ireland Office to warn people, as the marching season looms, of the dangers of sectarian hatred.

Timebomb depicts a group of children and infants playing happily in a bright toy-filled room. But the atmosphere gradually becomes ominous as radio news interrupts their play with reports of bomb blasts, church protests, civil unrest at Drumcree and punishment attacks, including a crucifixion.

To an arrangment of the Diana Ross song *Do you know where you're going to?*, the room darkens and the film ends with a scene reminiscent of *Child Play*, the video film said to have been watched by the two young boys who murdered Jamie Bulger. The final shot fades out on the face of a young child.

Michael Ancram, the Northern Ireland Minister, presented the film yesterday and said: "This film is, frankly, one we would all wish should never have had to be made. Viewers may find it disturbing, perhaps even frightening. That is not unintentional."

Timebomb is the latest in a series of films made by the Northern Ireland Office to promote peace and understanding in Ulster. It cost the taxpayer £185,000 and will be regularly broadcast on UTV, the ITV channel in Ulster.

The NIO has been making television and radio broadcasts promoting peace in Ulster since the beginning of the Troubles over 25 years ago. Since the late 1980s, the broadcasts have been more sophisticated and thematic.

Plans to compare recent burnings of churches and schools with Kristallnacht in Germany in November 1938 were shelved in the face of severe criticism from historians and Jewish groups. A government spokesman said the idea was still seen as valid and could be used again later.

Mawhinney wins poster row with Saatchi

By Andrew Pierce
Political Correspondent

THE latest Tory poster reached the nation's billboards yesterday only after Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, resolved a dispute between the party chairman and the advertising guru Maurice Saatchi.

The poster, which attacks Labour's economics policy, was presented to a meeting of strategists at Conservative Central Office last Tuesday. The party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, who made clear in weekend press interviews that he was in charge of the election campaign, insisted on testing the poster with focus groups of floating voters.

Lord Saatchi, whose company M & C Saatchi created the poster, refused to countenance the idea. The newly ennobled peer, who has worked on four previous general election campaigns, resented the suggestion that his company's work should be market tested.

But Dr Mawhinney, who has the support of Norman Blackwell, head of the Downing Street policy unit, argued that all future posters should be tested. The dispute arose against a background of private criticism at Central Office and Downing Street about the poster of a lion shedding a red tear.

The lion, which was even disliked by the Prime Minister, has been sent back to the zoo because it was deemed to have been a flop. Dr Mawhinney and Mr Blackwell were concerned it had not gone before focus groups before it was displayed at hundreds of sites around the country at a cost of tens of thousands of pounds.

The dispute between Dr Mawhinney and Lord Saatchi, who is close to John Major, was not resolved by the end of Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning Michael Heseltine, who will play the role of campaign peacemaker between Central Office, Downing Street and M & C Saatchi, decided to intervene. He backed Dr Mawhinney.

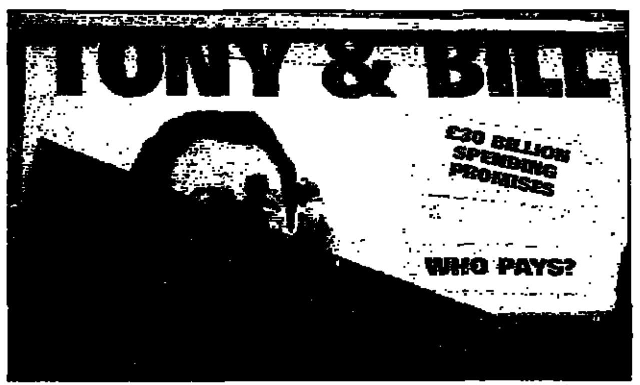
The poster, which was unveiled at Central Office yesterday, shows the Labour leader against in red letters "Tony & Bill" alongside the words: "£30 billion spending promises." Underneath is written: "Who pays?"

But before the launch was sanctioned it was tested by focus groups, which responded enthusiastically. It was a victory for Dr Mawhinney, but one that confirmed the fears of some Central Office officials that he has not stamped his authority hard enough on the campaign. "Michael Heseltine has the clout," one official said yesterday.

Dr Mawhinney denied that the lion posters, which have been criticised by the advertising industry, had been dropped because they were a mistake. He said that the lion theme had never been intended to run throughout the campaign.

Labour, which welcomed Ben Chapman, new MP for Wirral South, to Westminster yesterday, condemned the Tories' new poster. Brian Wilson, the campaign manager, said: "It speaks volumes that all the Tories have to offer is more of the same crude, negative campaigning that failed so dismally in the Wirral. The Tories have now become negative campaign junkies."

Photograph, page 24



The new Tory poster being unveiled yesterday

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For just £1 a week, you can sponsor an abandoned dog like me today. You'll be helping the National Canine Defence League to give me, or another dog who may never be re-homed, a safe and happy life at one of its rescue centres. You'll also help the NCDL to care for other needy dogs. In return, you'll get a sponsor's certificate, updates on your dog – and unconditional love from your new friend. Now, isn't that a pound well spent?

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Labour and Lib Dems in voting reform deal

By Jill Sherman

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats will today announce a deal on constitutional reform that will include the setting up of a new commission on voting reforms.

Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, and Robert Maclennan, president of the Liberal Democrats, will publish a report from a joint constitutional committee that has met in recent months.

Yesterday Liberal Democrat sources said they hoped the agreement would ensure that "an old voting system goes out with an old century". But Labour sources made clear that the party had not given into Liberal Democrat demands for a timetable for a referendum on PR. They suggested the report would merely say that a referendum on voting systems "will not be ruled out in a first Parliament".

The report is, however, expected to propose that a commission would have 12 months to assess the best voting system, behind which all those in favour of electoral reform would unite. The new system would be put as an alternative to the status quo if and when Tony Blair decided to hold a referendum.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: from 9.30am, backbench debates. From 2.30pm Scottish questions; Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act (Continuance) Order; Appropriation (Northern Ireland) Order; backbench debate on the War Crimes Act. In the Lords: debate on the state of the economy; Lloyds TSB Bill, second reading; debate on serious deficiencies in the provision of medical services, including welfare, for servicemen and their families.

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Half of children's intensive care units could be merged

■ A committee set up after the death of a 10-year-old boy for whom no bed could be found has recommended that the NHS runs fewer, larger units for children, Jeremy Laurance reports

HALF the children's intensive care units in England could be merged or closed under plans drawn up by a health department committee. Fewer, larger units run by highly qualified staff would provide a higher quality of care for the 12,000 children a year who are seriously injured in accidents or fall critically ill, according to the National Co-ordinating Group on the Provision of Paediatric Intensive Care.

The proposal will raise fears that access to the units will difficult and comes after complaints that hospitals are repeatedly turning away youngsters because of a shortage of beds. The Royal College of Nursing said that ease of access was a major concern and any delay in admission could jeopardise recovery. However, the committee says that more beds have been provided and the switch to fewer units must be backed by "retrieval teams" who would go out to fetch children by ambulance.

The pressures were demonstrated last week when a three-year-old girl with meningitis was taken 200 miles by helicopter from Sunderland to Glenfield hospital in Leicester after her parents were told that the specialist treatment she needed was not available locally. The girl, Jodie Levey, died on Monday night of meningococcal septicaemia.

The national co-ordinating group was set up by the Department of Health last year after an inquiry into the death from a brain haemorrhage of ten-year-old Nicholas Geldard from Stockport after an unsuccessful search for a bed. The committee presented its draft report to a conference of specialists in London yesterday. The final report will go to ministers in May.

Evidence from Britain and abroad shows that children do better in bigger units with trained staff on duty 24 hours. Although the draft report does not specify a minimum number of beds, it says that units must be of a sufficient size to sustain full-time highly qualified staff working exclusively in intensive care.

One paediatric consultant said: "You have to ask what you would expect if your child was in an intensive care unit. I would say I would expect a doctor who knew what was going on to be there 24 hours a day."

There are about 30 intensive care units for children but half have fewer than six beds and some have only one or two. Some beds are also provided in specialist units, such as those treating burns.

The number of paediatric intensive care beds in England rose from 127 in 1987 to 249 last year. Since the inquiry into Nicholas Geldard's death, 31 beds have been opened in the past ten months and another seven are planned to open by next month. The beds cost about £250,000 a year to run and are always under greater pressure in the winter. However, 40 per cent of children requiring intensive care are still looked after in adult units or on the wards.

The group envisages one or two lead units in each of the eight health regions in England. It says the switch to larger units should be phased in over several years, but in the meantime smaller units must arrange to work closely with their nearest large centre and agree arrangements for the transfer of patients.

An extra £1 million was made available last year to establish specialist retrieval teams and every hospital with a unit will be instructed to provide one.

Pollution alert boosts sales of bottled water

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

SALES of bottled water are booming across Britain as people respond to an outbreak of *cryptosporidium* in Hertfordshire and north London by shunning tap water.

Suppliers of a leading brand of bottled water said that demand from retailers had risen to more than a million bottles a day, five times the normal figure. A spokesman for Premier Waters, which supplies Evian mineral water, claimed that the outbreak of diarrhoea in Watford, St Albans and northwest London had worried consumers elsewhere.

Last night the number of confirmed victims of the microscopic parasite in the affected area had risen from 32 to 38. The outbreak, which has led to 300,000 households served by Three Valleys Water being told to boil their water until further notice, comes after a report by the Environment Agency that public supplies are contaminated by pollution and toxic algae.

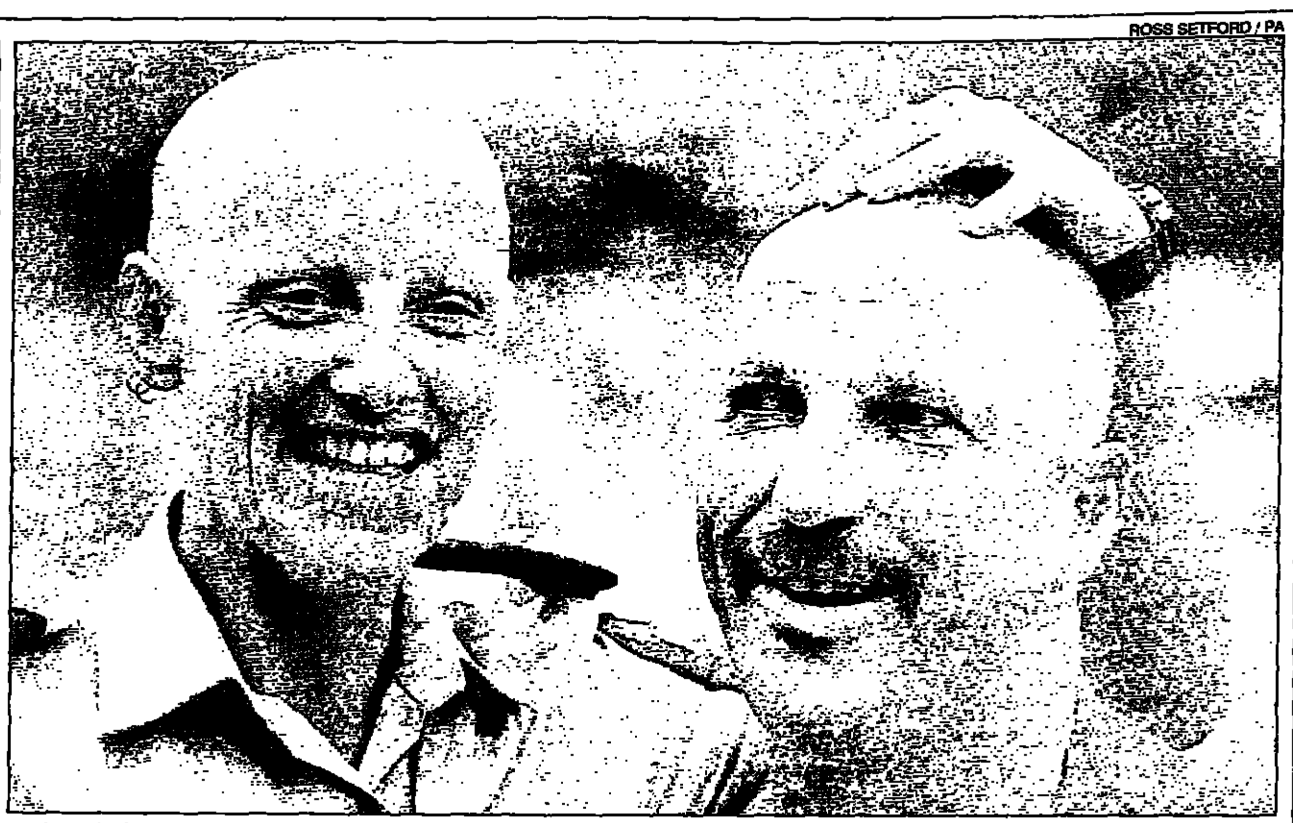
Premier Waters said: "The main concentration of demand was in the affected area but it was also higher in other parts of the country ... sales were above those of summertime peak demand."

A spokeswoman for Sainsbury's also reported heavy demand at stores in the affected area. "It is too soon for us to tell what is happening nationally," she said. Special consignments were being brought in from Scotland.

Asda sent 78,000 bottles to the area to cope with demand — selling them at a non-profit price. Supplies at the Asda store in Bexleyheath, Kent — 40 miles away — sold out. The Drinking Water Inspectorate, health officials and Three Valleys Water sought to pin down the source of the outbreak yesterday. *Cryptosporidium* is found in farm manure and food and can be transmitted by contact with infected people.

Three Valleys said it had contacted hospitals, schools, vulnerable customers, dentists, pharmacists and others with information and advice. It said it knew that a pharmacist had claimed that contaminated water had caused an increased level of illness in the Barnet area in December, but Barnet was outside the area currently affected and was supplied from a different water source. Tests at the time had showed no evidence of contamination.

ROSS SETFORD / PA



Clean bald: Ian Botham, the cricket commentator and former England player, with a New Zealand policewoman after their heads were shaved for a child cancer charity. Botham hopes to raise £21,000. Match report, page 46

Judge gets clean away with Elvis exhibit

By Emma Wilkins

A HIGH COURT judge picked up his Elvis Presley soap and bottle of perfume and walked happily from court yesterday after reserving judgment over the battle of the King of Rock 'n' Roll's name.

Mr Justice Laddie was delighted when told he could keep the £5.99 bottle and £1 bar of soap, which bears the image of Elvis Presley.

The products are manufactured by Sid Shaw, 50, who has built up over 20 years a £3 million business in Elvis Presley memorabilia, trading in Britain as Elvisly Yours.

Mr Shaw, from Shoreditch, east London, is appealing against a ruling last year that gave Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc. of Memphis, Tennessee, three trademarks on Elvis Presley toiletries in Britain.

As Richard Meade, counsel for Mr Shaw, handed over the goods, Mr Justice Laddie said: "Thank you. With these, I could be a millionaire in a few years' time." The court was told earlier that, under American law, Elvis Presley Enterprises was the direct successor to the late singer.

Peter Prescott, QC, counsel for Elvis Presley Enterprises, said: "In the case of someone selling a bar of Elvis Presley soap, I'm asking the court to make an assessment whether there would be a substantial risk that a substantial number of members of the public would assume it had something to do with the Elvis Presley estate."

But Mr Justice Laddie said people were unlikely to make a connection between Presley, who died in 1977, and a product for sale 20 years later. "Everyone knows Elvis Presley is dead. Everyone knows that a bar of soap now has not been given some special anointment by Elvis Presley."

The connection was as unlikely as if someone began to sell handbags with the words Margaret Thatcher on them or aftershave bearing the name Disraeli, the judge said.

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Fit that spoiled Liz Taylor's party is not too serious

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

LIZ TAYLOR is reported to have had a seizure during recuperation after brain surgery for a meningioma. She has been readmitted to the hospital where the operation took place but in every other way is said to have made an excellent recovery. A meningioma is a benign tumour of the covering of the brain.

An epileptiform seizure after surgery to remove a meningioma is common. Farhard Afshar, a consultant neurosurgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, said that the incidence of seizures after removal of a meningioma was as much as 15 per cent. It largely depended on the position of the growth.

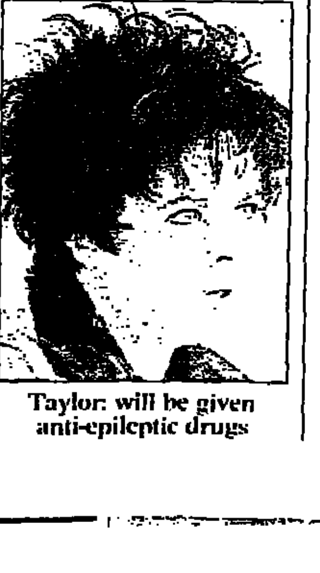
In Miss Taylor's case the tumour is reported to have been sited in the brain above her ear, in the region of the temporal lobe. In this position post-surgical epilepsy is more likely. Unless the patient is very old, and the meningioma is causing little trouble, surgical removal is the standard treatment.

The reports on the position of Miss Taylor's tumour make it likely that the operation would have been 100 per cent successful. A spokesman at the Institute of Epileptology at the Maudsley Hospital in London said that a survey had shown that if a patient was to suffer a seizure after brain surgery, 37 per cent would have one within the first week.

After such a seizure patients are prescribed anti-epileptic drugs for at least two years. However, treatment has recently so improved that nearly all patients can be kept free of seizures.

Whereas most brain tumours are more common in men than women, meningiomas are found more frequently in women. The tumours occur at any age but Miss Taylor just comes within the range when they are most often diagnosed — 40-60: she had to cancel her sixtieth birthday party because of the fit.

As in any brain tumour a seizure is a frequent initial symptom. In other cases meningiomas may cause pressure on a cranial nerve that results in problems with vision, swallowing or hearing. Other patients will notice changes in the power or sensation in their limbs but in many cases the first symptom is a subtle personality change.



Taylor: will be given anti-epileptic drugs

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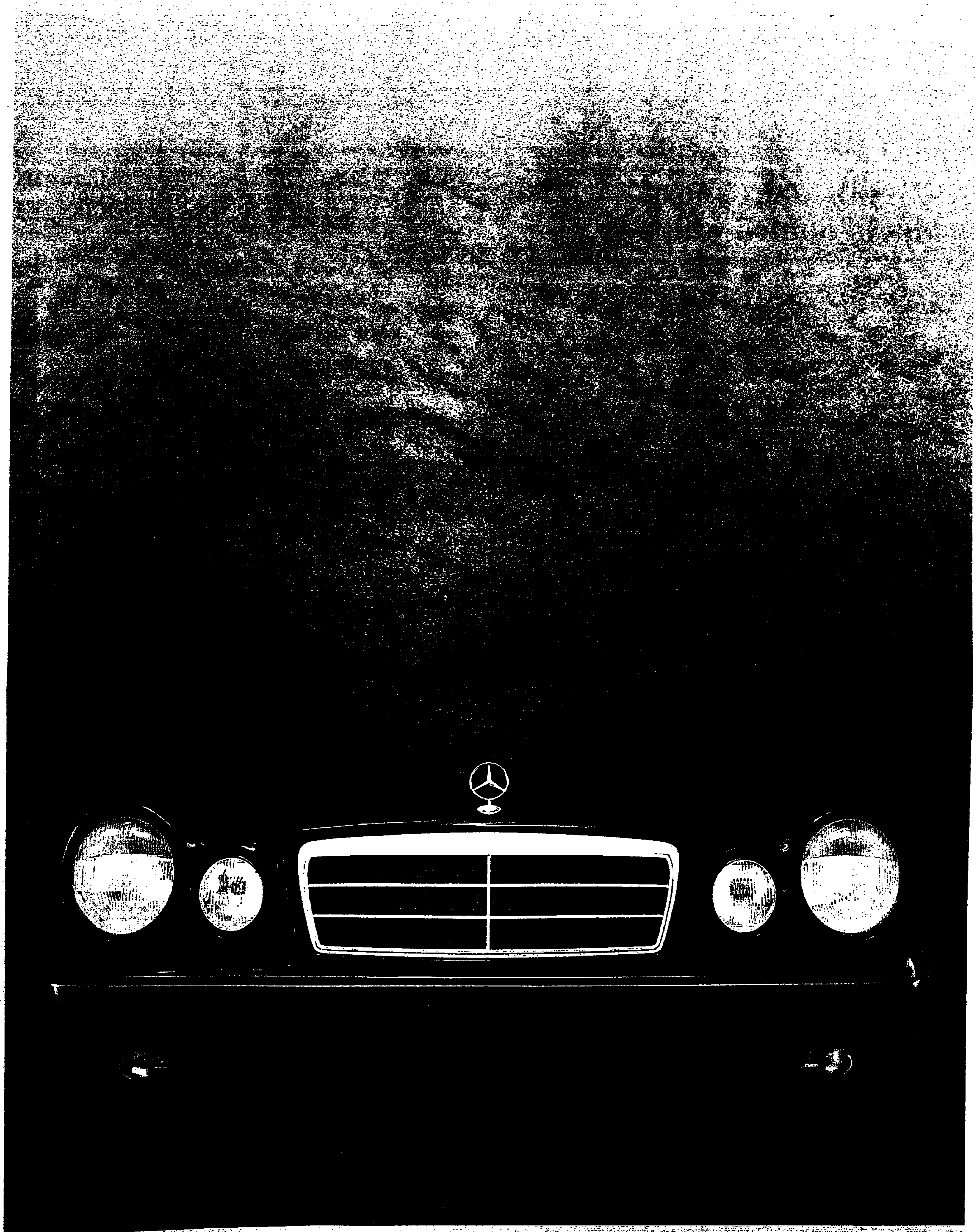

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Battle for final 12 miles to radioactive waste dump intensifies as German activists tunnel under road

Anti-nuclear protesters defy police onslaught

From Roger Boyes in Gorleben

THE German police yesterday launched baton charges and fired powerful water canon against masked stone-throwing anti-nuclear protesters in a pitched battle to gain control of a country road leading to a radioactive waste dump.

Petrol bombs flew through the air, bursting at the feet of several hundred riot police as the German authorities tried to find a way of transporting some 700 tonnes of nuclear waste to a huge fortified warehouse in Gorleben.

The six nuclear canisters were carried the length of Germany, from Bavaria in the south to the far northeast of the country, in a railway odyssey. Saboteurs sawed through tracks or made hoax bomb alarms and, on the final stretch, two protesters covered themselves with quick-setting cement in an attempt to delay the cargo. "Delay is a kind of victory for us ... it gives the Government time to change its mind," said Peter Lustig of the Gusborn protest camp, one of 14 improvised settlements that have sprung up during this frenzied week of demonstration and rioting.

A few dozen yards away from Herr Lustig's camp was a further sign of the delaying strategy: an approach road to Gorleben which had been undermined in four places by tunnellers. Earth has been scooped out by the barrowload in deliberate imitation of the tactics used by British motorway protest tunnellers.

Yesterday, an official from the highway authority pronounced the road unsafe for the nuclear containers which have now been unloaded from the train and placed on heavy, low-slung lorries for the last 12 miles to Gorleben.

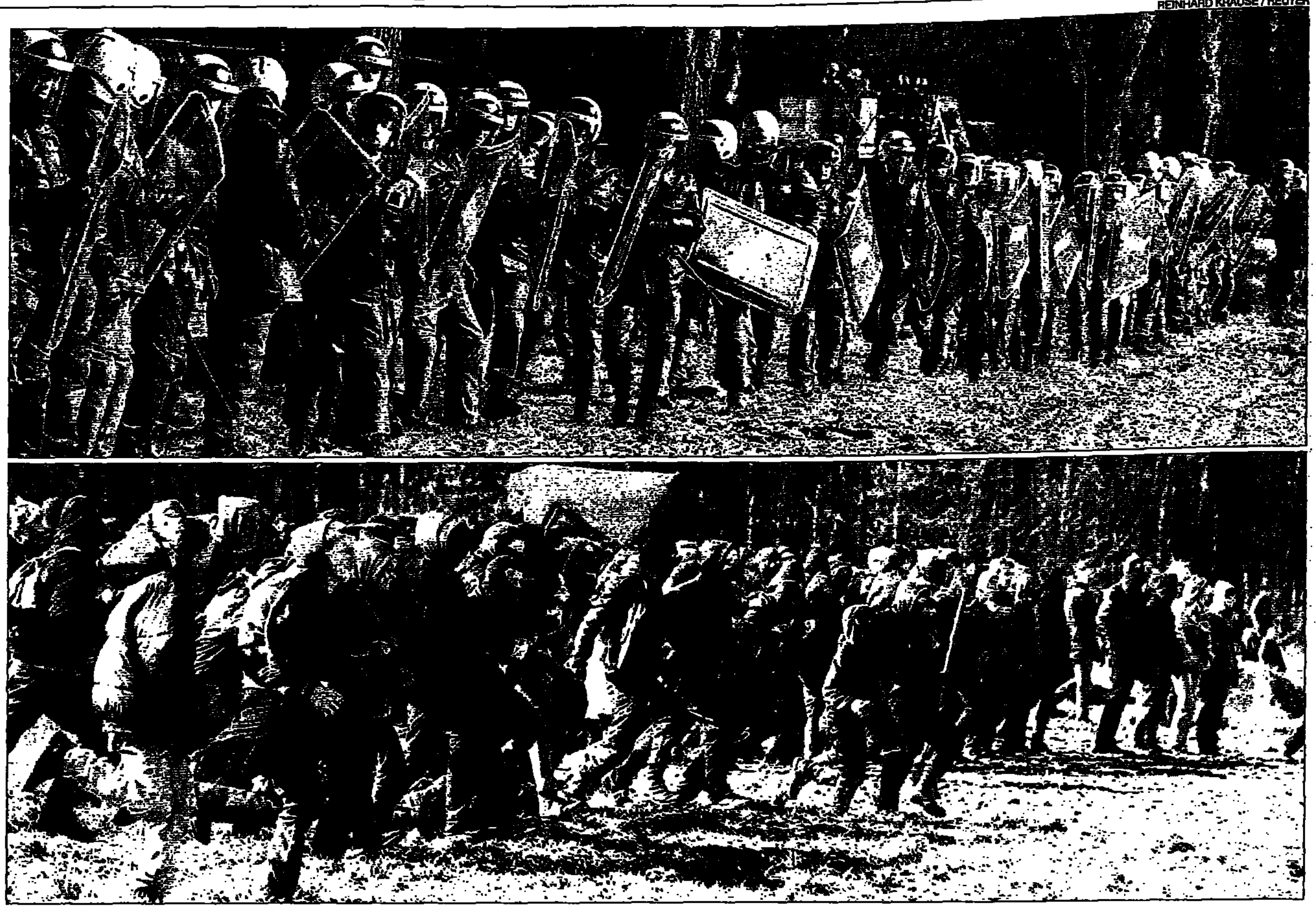
That sabotage — condemned as dangerous by Social Democrat politicians and even by some members of the so-called "resistance" — has switched the focus to the other main access road. This runs through the village of Quickborn and protesters were yesterday promising that the "battle of the Quickborn Road" would be fought today.

The spoils of victory could be huge for the protesters since it would wreck Germany's nuclear energy programme. Jürgen Trittin, a Green politician, is urging the authorities to take the waste back to the south of Germany since it was clear that the population around Gorleben would never accept a nuclear dump.

If all roads were made impassable and the waste had to be returned, the authorities would have to rethink their strategy. That prospect, however remote, has given an edge to the protests. Germany has strict laws on the suitability of roads for heavy-duty traffic and it would not take much to make them unsafe. Some of the 1,200 inhabitants of the Gusborn protest camp were preparing yesterday for the Quickborn campaign. Others gathered around a loudspeaker in the centre of the camp — which, with its wigwams, resembles an Indian reservation — to hear intercepted police messages. "We have taken two prisoners ...," crackled one message. "Wait for further instructions," came the standard reply.

The protesters — tired and unwashed after two cold, damp nights in an open field — cackled with mirth until a camp orderly told them to switch off the transmission since it is an illegal act to tune into the German police frequency. Although the anti-nuclear activists talk around their campfires about Gandhi and Mao, they confirm to German standards of discipline. Yesterday, they were dutifully sorting their rubbish according to its recycling value, dogs were kept on leads and alcohol was banned. The Gorleben campaign taps a German nerve. Farmers, elderly villagers, shopkeepers and teachers all support the militants and close their eyes to the violence because something fundamentally German — the sanctity of nature — appears to be under threat. Indeed, for generations of Germans brought up on Novalis and other Romantic poets, the defence of nature is a basic right that justifies civil disobedience.

REINHARD KRAUSE / REUTER



German riot police, top, and anti-nuclear protesters, above, line up for confrontation as authorities sought to move a nuclear waste shipment to the dump in Gorleben

Turkish leader defies military ultimatum to halt Islamic drift

From Andrew Finkel in Istanbul

TURKEY'S pro-Islamic Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, yesterday defied threats by his military to force him to halt what they see as the country's drift towards radical Islam.

He told supporters that he would not resign but would soldier on as the defender of democracy and the sovereignty of parliament. "That is it. No more discussion," he told his Welfare Party MPs ahead of a planned opposition motion of no confidence, which was rejected by parliament.

The supporters made it clear that they had no intention of implementing a strict package of measures produced by the military.

However, the Turkish armed forces are unlikely to retreat from their ultimatum, issued after a nine-hour meeting of the country's National Security Council last Friday. Commentators have described the meeting as being nothing short of a military coup by stealth.

Erbakan: will not leave office without a fight

The council promised to enforce unspecified "sanctions" if the Government failed to root out "anti-state activities concealed in anachronistic guise".

The published communiqué also reiterated Turkey's desire to join the European Union. Many of the measures the military seems to be proposing are themselves anachronistic and incompatible with Turkey's European ambitions. They include reinstatement in some form of Article 163 of the penal code used to combat religious propaganda against the state.

The military also wants stricter enforcement of Article 174 of the Constitution, which safeguards some of the initial radical reforms of the Turkish republic. Among them are the now neglected prohibitions against Islamic dress and religious brotherhoods.

The forces are clearly alarmed at the spread of a radical Islamic counter-culture in many urban centres of Turkey, through private Koranic schools and secret organisations.

The generals are believed to have presented Mr Erbakan with intelligence reports suggesting that Islamic militancy has overtaken Kurdish separatism as the country's number one threat.

The military's list of about 20 demands, however, appears designed to make it impossible for Mr Erbakan, whose Welfare Party campaigned for fuller Islamic rights, to continue in office. He has made it clear that he will not go without a fight.

His one comfort is that he knows the military will hesitate to antagonise domestic and international opinion with a full seizure of power. An attempt to prune the Welfare Party by force risks making it grow stronger.

The military's outspokenness is a reflection of widespread frustration in Turkey that the Welfare Party managed to gain power last July with only 21 per cent of the vote. Mr Erbakan skilfully exploited a personal enmity between the leaders of the two centre-right parties .

The generals are trying to exert pressure on one of the parties, the True Path, led by Tansu Ciller, to pull out of the ruling coalition.

EMU delay 'requires new treaty'

Bonn: Helmut Hesse, a member of the Bundesbank council, was quoted yesterday as saying that a delay in launching the European single currency would force the renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty, and its ratification by EU member states.

Herr Hesse, in an interview with the *Nordsee-Zeitung* of Bremerhaven, also said the efforts of some countries to join economic and monetary union did not mean that the Maastricht criteria could be ignored.

"At the moment, all member states are wildly determined to fulfil the criteria and be there at the start. It would be a loss of prestige to miss the start," he said.

But, he added: "We must insist the criteria are strictly observed because the entry of Germany is only allowable under the constitution if the currency union is stable."

Record postwar unemployment has pressured state finances and put reaching the criteria into doubt. *(Reuter)*

Nato chief says Moscow ready for security deal

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

NATO and Russia are about to begin work on the text of an agreement that will lead to a new strategic security partnership, Javier Solana, the alliance's Secretary-General, disclosed yesterday.

He said he believed that the Russians would agree to the partnership and that it was hoped to complete a deal before the Nato summit in Madrid on July 8. Señor Solana, who was speaking during a visit to London, is flying to Moscow this weekend for negotiations with Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister.

The increasing confidence within the alliance that Moscow will reach an agreement was reflected in a meeting yesterday at Downing Street between the Nato Secretary-General and John Major. Downing Street sources said the Prime Minister and Señor Solana agreed that there were positive signs that Nato and Russia could agree on a new security relationship. Although Moscow continues to oppose Nato's plan to offer membership of the alliance to several former Warsaw Pact nations at the Madrid summit, the detailed negotiations between Señor Solana and the Russians over the past few months had proved constructive, the Nato chief said.

Addressing the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Señor Solana said: "We are about to begin work on the text of an agreement. The atmosphere is constructive. I do not want to minimise the difficulties, but I believe they are interested in a partnership with Nato and that we will conclude one." He said there was "movement and momentum" in the discussions. "What we are willing to conclude with Russia is of far-reaching importance for the whole of Europe."

There was no question, he added, of "buying Russia off" or compensating it for the alliance's proposal to extend further east. "Like the enlargement process itself, the development of our relationship with Russia is part of a wider transformation of Nato that will be good for Russia, good for Nato and good for the whole of Europe," he said.

Señor Solana said that critics of enlargement appeared to forget that it was part of a broader strategy to create a more stable and secure Europe: "I see a great tendency to highlight the difficulties and speculate about the consequences of enlarging Nato, but far less attention to the far greater implications of not doing so." To maintain Nato as a "closed shop" would be to keep the countries of Central and Eastern Europe "imprisoned in their past".

Dismissing claims that enlargement would be hugely expensive, he said that opening Nato to new members would be a "good bargain and a sound investment".

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Paralysed Frenchman tells his story in the wink of an eye

From Susan Bell in Paris

A PARALYSED former magazine editor has written an acclaimed book using the only part of his body that still moves — his left eyelid.

Jean-Dominique Bauby, 44, was the editor-in-chief of *Elle* until he suffered a brain haemorrhage on December 8, 1995, which plunged him into a coma. When he awoke he was permanently paralysed from head to toe. He could not speak and needed help to eat and breathe. Only his brain and one eyelid functioned normally. M Bauby was diagnosed as suffering from "locked-in" syndrome, a rare neurological condition in which the part of the brain that sends commands to the body is destroyed.

The former editor, who has described his condition as being like a prisoner trapped inside an old-fashioned diving suit, nevertheless resolved to write a book. Just over a year later, M Bauby's courage and determination have been rewarded and *The Diving Suit and the Butterfly* will be published by Robert Laffont on Friday. Described by *Le Figaro* as poignant and distressing, the book is widely considered to be a tribute to the resilience of the spirit.

Translating the flight of the butterfly onto paper was an agonisingly slow process. Every day for a year, Claude Mendibil, an editor with Laffont, came to M Bauby's hospital room in Berck-sur-Mer, 50 miles south of Calais. She recited an alphabet in which the letters are ordered according to the frequency with which they occur in the French language. When she arrived at the desired letter, the paralysed man would wink and Mme Mendibil wrote the letter down. By that laborious process, words and sentences and eventually whole pages of text were created.

M Bauby has not lost his sense of humour. Interviewed in *Elle*, he said: "I love the story of Claude going to a café after one of our long 'dictation' sessions. The barman gave her a big wink and she burst out laughing, leaving the poor man completely baffled."

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Netanyahu defies US by ordering start on settlement

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

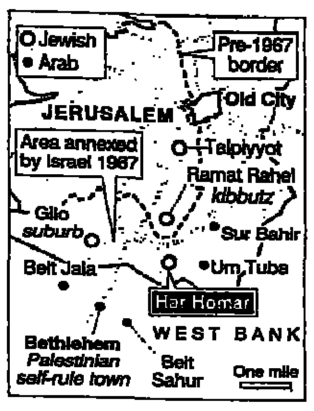
THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, defied criticism by President Clinton and other world leaders and vowed yesterday to start work within days on a settlement in occupied East Jerusalem that will provide homes for 6,500 Jewish families.

Diplomats said that Mr Netanyahu's *rejection* of American opposition to the work at Har Homa had put the biggest strain on US-Israeli relations since his election last May over Mr Clinton's preferred candidate, Shimon Peres, of Labour.

Heralding what many observers fear will be a new round of Israeli-Palestinian clashes, the Prime Minister told army radio in reference to work on the hill between Jerusalem and Bethlehem: "It is two weeks from the standpoint of the bulldozers. From the standpoint of the survey work, it is only a few days. We are determined to go on building in Jerusalem."

The Prime Minister added, in the face of increasing pressure at the United Nations against the project: "If it were not for the legal restrictions, the bulldozers would have been on Har Homa yesterday and not two weeks from now."

Mr Netanyahu denied that a brief delay in sending in the surveyors had been in order to minimise the inevitable hostility he will face during a visit today to Egypt, where President *Mubarak has spoken of* the grave dangers posed by Har Homa to the fragile peace process.



The Israeli leader brushed off remarks made in Washington where Mr Clinton sided with Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, saying that plans to build on occupied land theoretically *the subject* of future Israeli-Palestinian negotiations would fuel mistrust. "There was nothing new in what he [Clinton] said," Mr Netanyahu told the radio. "The Americans understand our policy well."

He said that Mr Clinton had also made clear to Mr Arafat that America would not tolerate violence. Many Arabs and Israelis have voiced fears that the first flashpoint could come as early as Friday when the Palestine Liberation Organisation is trying to organise a mass prayer session at the site.

A senior PLO official said Monday's general strike in the West Bank and Gaza was "the first angry message, which will be followed by more powerful protest measures".

After warnings that violence could be worse than that sparked last September by the Israeli opening of a tunnel near Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, Israeli tanks and snipers have been placed on *alert in the West Bank and the* Gaza Strip. At the first sign of concerted trouble, an iron-fist response codenamed Operation Field of Thorns will be launched.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 war and soon after annexed it, a move still not recognised internationally, *which is why the embassies* of the world powers are situated in Tel Aviv.

PERE DURAN / AP

Warrior's final retreat

The Spanish Foreign Ministry has bowed to pressure from African diplomats and belatedly ordered the removal of an African warrior who was stolen from his grave, stuffed and put on display at the Museum of Natural History at Banyoles, near Barcelona (Michael Dynes writes). A boycott of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics was threatened by African protesters unless the Senegalese warrior, known as El Negro, was removed from display, returned to his homeland and given a dignified burial. The warrior has been displayed in a glass case, and largely ignored, in the Spanish town since 1916. The stuffed warrior, exhibited alongside an ape and a monkey, had shocked some visitors.

Zimbabwe drafts law to allow race bias

FROM JAN RAATH
IN HARARE

A BILL to legalise racial discrimination in the form of affirmative action in Zimbabwe's business sector is expected to be introduced soon. Critics say it will fan increasing tension between blacks and whites and entrench corruption.

A draft of the "Prevention of Discrimination" Bill proposes to extend prosecutions for discrimination beyond public services to the denial of personal finance and the refusal to sell property.

The main thrust of the Bill is a clause which permits discrimination when it is to advance "persons disadvantaged by past discrimination".

The draft is a response to a vociferous campaign over the past seven years by black businessmen to have white businesses excluded from state contracts and to force banks to grant loans to black businessmen at preferential rates.

Professor Welshman Ncube, head of the University of Zimbabwe's public law department, described the draft as vague, arbitrary and open to abuse.

Rabbis keep the lid on frontline cornflakes

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

REAL soldiers want a real breakfast — cornflakes. But the Israeli Army's rabbis have infuriated the men by delaying the request because of strict Jewish dietary laws.

The army said this week that cornflakes have recently been added to the daily ration of combat soldiers, but are not yet being served because small, and often dangerously exposed army outposts in areas such as occupied southern Lebanon are not equipped to store the milk separately from meat products.

Jewish dietary laws require a separation of all dairy and meat products. Cheese packaged in sealed containers can be stored in the same kitchen as meat, but milk needs its own container which can be found only on larger military bases.

After expressions of anger from combat troops, who have already been suffering morale problems over their conditions, the army said that it was considering changes to enable the fighters to start the day with their favourite meal. The changes would involve the purchase of long-life milk which enables cornflakes to be added to the standard frontline breakfast rations of bread, eggs, tomatoes and cucumber.

Such has been the pace of social change in Israel that off-duty soldiers are able to enjoy that most non-kosher of delicacies, a cheeseburger, at a large new McDonald's in Jerusalem.

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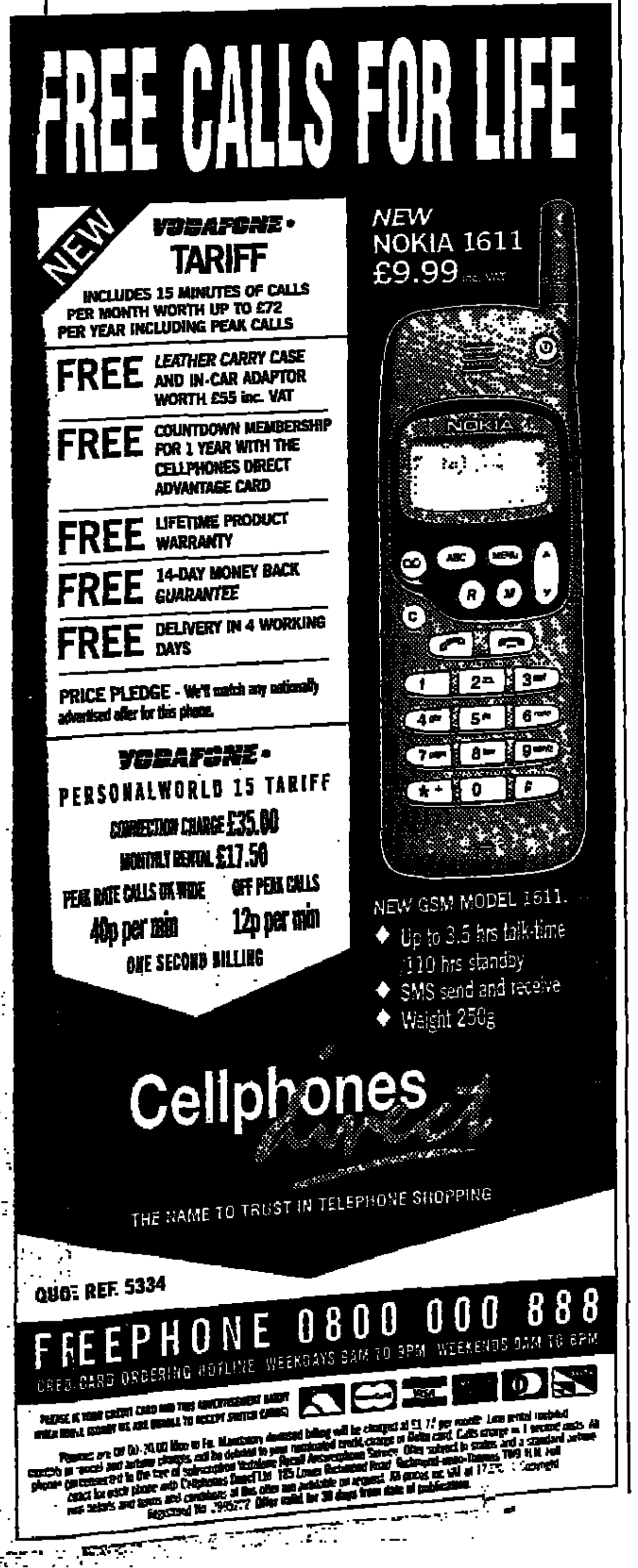
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Rebels seize weapons from barracks as secret police start house-to-house searches

Beleaguered Berisha puts close aide at army's head

The Albanian President needs to know that soldiers will fire at civilians if ordered, writes **Richard Owen** in Tirana

THE Albanian Army began yesterday to disarm rebels in southern Albania under emergency regulations issued by President Berisha authorising troops to open fire on protesters carrying weapons.

The protesters continued to roam southern Albania at will, and much of the country appeared out of Tirana's control, casting doubt on the army's ability or willingness to restore order. Opposition leaders said many protesters were prepared to fight despite the Government's "shoot to kill" policy, and there was a risk of "serious bloodshed".

Army bases in Vlore and Himara were looted. In Vlore, a four-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet while playing in her garden. The hospital in Vlore was looted by rebels who stole food and clothing, firing weapons in the corridors and operating rooms.

In a surprise move intended to tighten his grip on the army, President Berisha, who was re-elected by parliament on Monday after ordering a state of emergency, sacked General Sheme Kosova, his Chief of Staff, and replaced him with his own military adviser, General Adem Copani. An official communiqué said General Kosova was directly responsible for "failing to defend army barracks in the south against looters".

The move also appeared aimed at countering soldiers' reluctance to fire on civilians, even if armed. Two weeks ago General Kosova personally oversaw the recapture of a strategic bridge taken by the rebels in the southern town of Memaliaj, but it was subsequently recaptured. The army lost credibility as a result, with morale severely undermined.

The authorities said more than 1,500 weapons, looted from police and army arsenals last weekend in an orgy of rioting, had been handed in. But in Sarande, on the Adriatic coast, protesters declared their own "government" and army commanders simply told their troops to go home, according to television reporters in the area.

The Sarande rebels commandeered a rusting warship from the naval base — part of the small and dilapidated Albanian Navy — and began firing at the coast. Further south, in Gjirokaster, a petrol station and hotel owned by Gjallica — one of the failed pyramid funds — was burnt and looted. In Fier, close to Tirana, rebels in cars and lorries opened fire on an army barracks and seized army weapons until police arrived to rescue the local army commander. Army bases in Vlore and Himara were also looted.

The Berisha Government's attempt to impose a total news blackout was abandoned after international protests, with the European Broadcasting Union able to restore satellite links for foreign broadcasters, whose relay station was cut on Monday. A government spokesman said foreign journalists were free to report provided they "stayed within Albanian law".

Journalists were expelled from southern towns on Monday and were yesterday advised not to return "for their own safety ... because the situation in some towns is still not under the control of state institutions".

But the Albanian media remained muzzled, and officials insisted this was in accordance with European and United Nations conventions. Pavle Mihal Qesku, the Albanian Ambassador in London, said the internal media restrictions were a temporary measure, but insisted that international coverage was unrestricted. He said the situation in Sarande and Vlore and a "stretch of land along the coast" was out of control, but this was only "a fraction of the country".

There were reports of a crackdown in Lushnje, 60 miles south of Tirana, with troops surrounding the town and carrying out house-to-house searches with agents of the feared secret police, the Shik. Troops in tanks and armoured personnel carriers also surrounded Vlore, the Adriatic port at the centre of the rebellion.

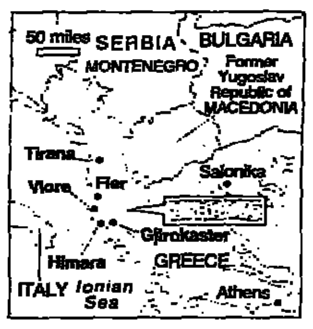
Foreign residents, mainly Italians, evacuated from Vlore by helicopter on Monday said the town was still in the hands of armed rebels, many of them youths in their twenties wearing balaclavas or Palestinian-style *keffiyahs* and driving lorries and cars flying the Albanian flag, a black eagle on a red background. "There is absolute mayhem in Vlore," one Italian businessman said. "Complete chaos, a free for all".

Albanian opposition leaders said they did not believe Albanian troops, a third of whom are conscripts, would open fire on their fellow citizens. "They are just boys in uniform," a member of the opposition Forum for Democracy said. He said Mr Berisha would have to rely on the Shik to break the revolt, which began as a protest over lost savings but has snowballed into a general uprising.

Albanians woke up to a second day of martial law after a night of eerie calm, with police and troops enforcing a dusk-to-dawn curfew. The road to the south — which at Lushnje narrows to a single track over a bridge — remained closed by roadblocks manned by armed police and the secret police.

As dusk fell in Tirana, where a heavy security presence has stifled protests, Skanderbeg Square — normally the busy heart of Tirana — resembled a deserted stage set, dominated by the great mosque and an equestrian statue of Skanderbeg, Albania's national hero. There was the occasional rattle of unexplained gunfire from the suburbs nestling in the surrounding hills.

☐ **Rome:** The pilot and co-pilot of an Albanian MiG15 jet landed in southern Italy and requested asylum. The Defence Ministry said they were being questioned. *(AP)*



Leading article, page 19

DIMITRI MESSINIS / AP PHOTO

A masked man fires an AK47 outside the university in Vlore. Mayhem reigned as rebels looted army stores, fired into a hospital and seized a warship

General's mission to dragoon troops

By James Pettifer

THE sacking by President Berisha of Albania's army chief and the appointment of General Adem Copani in his place indicates the difficulty the right-wing Government is having in making the state of emergency effective.

The army was rapidly scaled down in the aftermath of communism, as it was a highly politicised behemoth for a small country, but it has never been fully re-equipped and suffers from many logistical and leadership weaknesses. Command is still influenced by the sons of Second World War partisans, most of whom come from the south and have little instinctive sympathy with Mr Berisha.

General Copani has been Mr Berisha's right-hand man on military matters for the past five years, and has close links with Nato. He comes from the south and is a humane, intelligent man who is unlikely to seek a bloodbath. It is probable that he has been appointed to use his personal authority to bring rebellious southern officers and troops to heel, and to try to get the army to operate as an effective force in the south.

Moreover, if the military is going to become the de facto Government, links with Nato may be vital: Mr Berisha has been seeking German military assistance since last autumn. General Copani is a tough, impressive man with an independent mind who embodies the old Ottoman proverb, "To the Armenian the pen, to the Albanian the sword". His appointment may offer a glint of hope for a reasonably peaceful resolution.

Mr Berisha's hope must be that General Copani can bring unity to a force that otherwise shows every sign of dissolving into antagonistic factions under the pressure of events.

It must remain doubtful, however, whether the military will be capable of maintaining discipline in a prolonged occupation of the rebellious southern towns.

British urged to stay away

By Tim Jones

BRITISH businessmen and tourists were yesterday advised by the Foreign Office to put off plans to visit Albania. The British Embassy in the capital, Tirana, was also advising people to register their details.

There are thought to be about 75 British people working in the country and by last night most of them had made their whereabouts known.

They are mainly aid workers, business consultants, teachers and missionaries. Andrew Tesoriere, the British Ambassador, said: "We are advising people they should stay clear of the south of the country or leave it as soon as possible."

He added: "Because of the clampdown in Tirana, the city is calm and people are obeying the curfew. But the situation should not be exaggerated. There are at least two or three flights out of the country every day, so people are not trapped."

At least one man, Colin Raine, 48, of Bridlington, who is trying to build an orphanage near Tirana for the charity Hope and Homes, says he is determined to stay.

His wife, Barbara, said: "I am obviously concerned for his welfare, but he is the kind of person who will not come home until he sees his work finished.

"When I last spoke to him he said things were getting worse by the hour, but there was not too much he could say over the telephone as he thought it might be bugged."

WORLD SUMMARY

US beauty denounced by Sultan

New York: The Sultan of Brunei yesterday attacked "unfounded sensationalist allegations" of a former Miss USA who is suing him in a Los Angeles court (Quentin Letts writes).

Shannon Marketic, 26, claims she was held against her will at the Sultan's palace and expected to flirt with men in a "party room". She had been promised $21,000 (£7,500) a week by a Los Angeles talent agency for "promotional work". Lawyers for the Sultan are investigating her story.

Plan for jails in mineshafts

Johannesburg: South African prison authorities may convert old mineshafts into jail cells to house the country's growing criminal population, which has reached 124,000, an official said. The proposal led to anger and dismay among human rights activists, who described it as barbaric. The Correctional Services said a committee to look into the issue of housing prisoners underground would be established soon. *(AFP)*

Algeria to get election

Paris: Algeria will hold multi-party elections on June 5, the state-run radio said, quoting a presidential statement. The country has been without an elected parliament and local councils since 192, when a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead was annulled. About 60,000 people have died in the resulting political violence. *(Reuter)*

Death 'sent' to Haiti children

Miami: Vos BV, of the Netherlands, and its German subsidiary, Helm AG, shipped a death sentence to the children of Haiti" when tainted sweetener killed hundreds of youngsters, David Mishael said in a federal hearing. He is claiming $100 million (£62 million) for 45 children, many of them dead. *(AP)*

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Plan to plunder database 'backed by Mrs Clinton'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON encouraged a plan to copy White House databases to help the Democratic election campaign, in an apparent breach of laws which ban the use of federal property for party political purposes, according to information which *emerged from* a congressional committee yesterday.

Al Gore, the Vice-President, meanwhile, used a hastily arranged press conference to deny that he had done anything illegal in soliciting money for President Clinton's re-election campaign last year from his White House office.

Allegations about inappropriate Democratic fundraising practices have multiplied in the past two weeks, partly because congressional committees investigating campaign finance have secured White House documents.

Recent claims — such as the allegation that Mr Clinton used the offer of a night in the White House's Lincoln Bedroom to coax funds from *donors* — are more easily understood by the public than early allegations about illegal foreign contributions, but so far the President's popularity ratings appear unchanged.

However, Democrats are concerned that even if no illegal activity is proved, the charges will tarnish Mr Gore's anticipated bid for the presidency in 2000. In this week's *Newsweek*, George Stephanopoulos, a former presidential adviser, says that from 1994 until Mr Clinton's re-election in 1996, "money became a near-obsession at the highest level".

"You can't imagine how bleak things were inside the Clinton White House in late 1994. Newt Gingrich and his insurgents had just clobbered us at the polls; the President's approval rating was flat-lining," he said.

As a spur to himself, Mr Stephanopoulos said he taped a Republican newsletter to his desk, which "taunted that, 'It would take a miracle for Bill Clinton to be re-elected'. That was true — and it would also take *cash, tons of it*, and everybody from the President down knew it."

Mr Stephanopoulos said: "We pulled out all the stops: overnights at the White House, coffees, intimate dinners at Washington hotels, you name it."

Stephanopoulos: "cash became near-obsession"

The question now facing congressional committees is whether the Democrats' aggressive fundraising, which nevertheless raised less money during the election than Republican efforts, broke federal laws. According to a White House memo in the possession of a congressional committee, Mrs Clinton wrote "This sounds promising, please advise" on the top of a memo which suggested using a White House database as the basis for a new computer system for the 1996 campaign.

It emerged in January that names of Democratic contributors from the White House database had been passed to Democratic campaigners. Mrs Clinton and White House officials have denied that federal laws were broken.

Mr Gore denied similar allegations on Monday, saying that although he had made a few campaign calls from his office, he had used a Democratic National Committee credit card. He says that although he has done nothing illegal, he will "as a matter of policy" not make such calls in the future.

However, Trent Lott, the Senate Majority Leader, said that Mr Gore's conduct raised a serious question of wrongdoing which warranted investigation by an independent prosecutor.

DAVID PHILLIP / AP

Benny Crampes rescues his dog from a flooded home in Lebanon Junction, Kentucky, yesterday as muddy river water slowly retreated in parts of the state.

Floods recede after 48 die

The flooding, which followed record weekend downpours, forced thousands of people from their homes in Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia. Eleven people died in Kentucky. In all, 48 deaths were blamed on weekend storms, flooding and tornados in the region, including 25 in Arkansas. *(AP)*

Peru siege rebels shun Castro asylum offer

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA
CORRESPONDENT

PERUVIAN guerrillas holding 72 hostages in the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima yesterday poured cold water on an offer of asylum in Cuba in exchange for their captives' release.

Nestor Cerpa, the leader of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, said the rebels had no intention of leaving their country and reiterated their main demand for the release of more than 400 imprisoned comrades.

"We do not want to make any statements about the Cuban offer as yet, out of respect for our friend President Castro. But it is our intention to continue our struggle in our country and we will not give up until our main demand is fulfilled," Señor Cerpa said in a radio interview.

President Fujimori of Peru had announced Cuba's offer after talks in Havana with President Castro. He said that the Cuban leader had made the offer conditional on the approval of the Japanese Government and other mediators in the 78-day standoff.

US bars cash for human cloning

BY TOM RHODES

PRESIDENT CLINTON banned all federal funds yesterday for human cloning experiments in America and urged a moratorium on private research until the ethical implications of the new science were understood fully.

In a directive designed to block legal loopholes, Mr Clinton spoke against "trying to play God" and said he did not believe government money should be used for further experiments. Joined in the Oval Office by Donna Shalala, the Health Secretary, and Dr Harold Shapiro, president of Princeton and chairman of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, Mr Clinton said human cloning should not be considered in the same light as splitting the atom.

"Any discovery that touches on human creation is not simply a matter of scientific inquiry; it is a matter of morality and spirituality as well," he said. He urged private research centres to impose their own voluntary moratorium until all aspects of cloning, including religious and philosophical concerns, had been debated.

After the cloning two weeks ago of Dolly, the Scottish sheep, Mr Clinton had asked the bioethics commission to review the implications for America and report back to him within 90 days. But the White House decided to take further action after discovering not merely the legal loopholes but also that scientists in Oregon had cloned two rhesus monkeys from embryos.

Immigrant rush added 1m voters

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House pressed the immigration service to naturalise at least a million new citizens in time for President Clinton's re-election last year and 180,000 people entered America without any criminal background checks.

In another sign of the Clintons' plans to ensure victory, the White House prodded the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) to reduce a large backlog swiftly and accelerate its processing procedure before the polls last November.

The effort was spearheaded by the office of Al Gore, the Vice-President, but also appeared to involve Hillary Clinton as a catalyst. The INS programme, known as Citizenship USA, is now under scrutiny by Republicans.

Among those granted entry were an Ecuadorean wanted for murder and a Vietnamese immigrant who faced deportation for two convictions and a parole violation.

The Citizenship USA programme was launched in August 1995 by Doris Meissner, the INS commissioner, as a priority to reduce a backlog of 800,000 applications. The connection with the White House was established when the head of a Democratic activist group in Chicago wrote to Mrs Clinton to inform her of the opportunities presented by the new programme.

Doug Farbrother, a senior Gore aide, was assigned to speed up the programme. Defending himself yesterday, he said people applied for citizenship to vote. Giving them that right after the poll would have been "like lining up for tickets to a rock concert, and we say we'll give you the tickets after the concert. Who knows how people will vote?"

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At last, the real clothes show

LONDON

Beautiful basic clothes for real women are back in fashion, says Iain R. Webb

During London Fashion Week, which ended on Friday evening, one critic described the latest collection by the designer Betty Jackson as "real clothes for real women". What, then, were the luxurious navy reefer jacket by Clements Ribeiro, the sleek, brown skirt suit by Alexander McQueen, or the exquisitely tailored leather trouser suits by Antonio Berardi, if not real clothes?

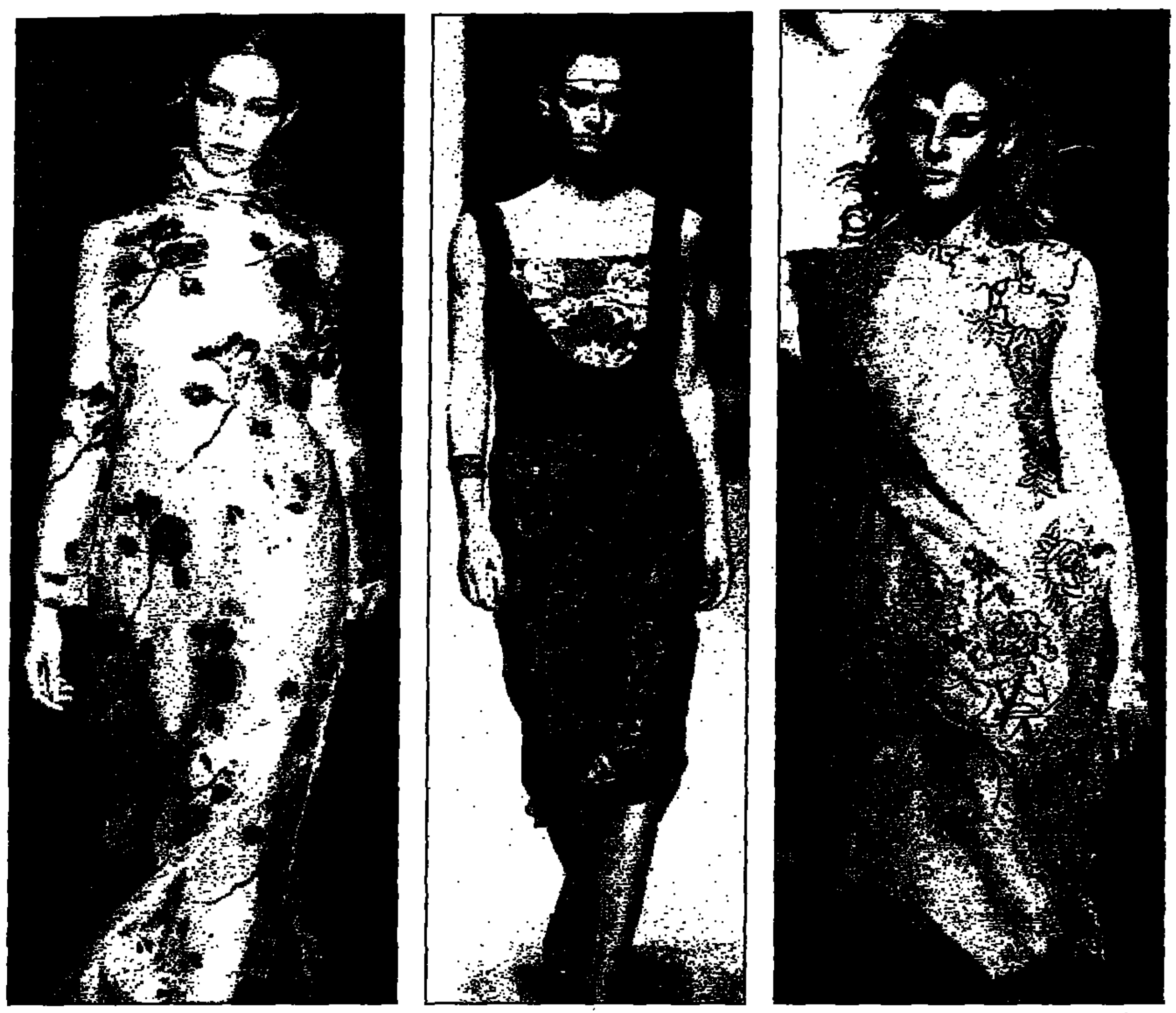
The autumn/winter 1997 collections featured some really good clothes, but more often than not these fine fashions were obscured by the designer's need to make a statement or give the catwalk show an edgy feel. To be thought of as "edgy" (as in at the cutting edge) is perhaps the ultimate accolade for a designer at present. It implies they are ultra-hip. Sadly, it also means their shows tend to be a bit pretentious or, in several cases, just plain ugly.

What possesses a designer to dress up some of the world's most beautiful women to look as if they have taken part in a "dirty protest" backstage (Berardi); been kept in a freezer for more than a month (Philip Treacy); or have a bloom in their cheeks so rosy it looks as if they have been hit with the vase as well (Jackson)?

At present, the fashion pack is obsessed with all things weird. They shy from the sensible, balk at the becoming and would not be caught dead applauding anything close to commercial.

Yet, more than ever this season, beyond the façade of horror-story hair and make-up and high-drama presentation, London showed that fashion can be enjoyed by everyone. If a nation of women sighed when they read that the mini was back at Miu Miu, then, what the heck, wear the just-below-the-knee pencil skirts by Katharine Hamnett. If all you really want to buy next winter is a sweater, make sure it's plum, grey or bottle-green. If you want to update your wardrobe with a new accessory, get a knee-length, high-heel boot (best at Amanda Wakeley by Gina).

There were a few pleasant surprises (in store at the end of August, care of Sonja Nuttall, English Eccentrics, Workers For Freedom and Jean Muir), while designers such as Ben de Lisi and Wakeley continued to make the most of their strong points: fluid cocktail and party dresses in smokey pink, plum, and purple, or luxurious minimalism cut in cream, butter, milk chocolate, grey, and shocking pink respectively. Both designers offered versions of the little black dress.



Left to right: **SONJA NUTTALL:** Assured. **CLEMENTS RIBEIRO:** Sheer delight. **ALEXANDER McQUEEN:** A soft edge

Design duo Pearce Fionda kept their fans happy with seriously shapely suits and slinky jersey separates, including a sexy double-layer split pencil skirt. Mostly monotone, and with a turban or two thrown in, the collection was made for a movie queen: Norma Desmond.

There was little change from Bella Freud and Jasper Conran — kooky, colourful and eclectic at Freud, while Conran showed his unique brand of grown-up glamour: feathers and leathers.

Nuttall returned with her strongest and most assured collection to date — everything from dove grey or navy windowpane check and pinstripe trouser suits worn with camisole tops or ribbed sweaters, to diaphanous metallic rose-print dresses, sometimes tied about the waist with a cashmere scarf. "Basic, beautiful clothes," says Nuttall.

Above: **JEAN MUIR:** Velour stripes fresh and modern
Left: **WFF:** Seductive fabrics with oriental overtones
Right: **NICOLE FARHI:** A trouser suit in plush velvet

The collections of English Eccentrics (designed by Helen David) and Workers For Freedom were equally exquisite. David offered ultra-soft knits and sumptuous velvets alongside fragile-looking beaded pieces. Best of all was a honey-coloured, short-sleeved rollneck sweater worn with a long, matching skirt in duchesse satin, all wrapped-up in a sparkling organza shawl. WFF favoured equally seductive fabrics and a vaguely oriental silhouette cut in suede, silk, velvet and georgette, coloured honey, brown, red and pinky hues, plus the obligatory black.

There was a fresh modern mood at Jean Muir — little sweaters worn with knee-length A-line skirts, colourful velour stripes, punched suede, strappy camisole tops teamed with trousers or long skirts, and a neat, boxy leather jacket. Long georgette dresses in navy and black were pure Muir.

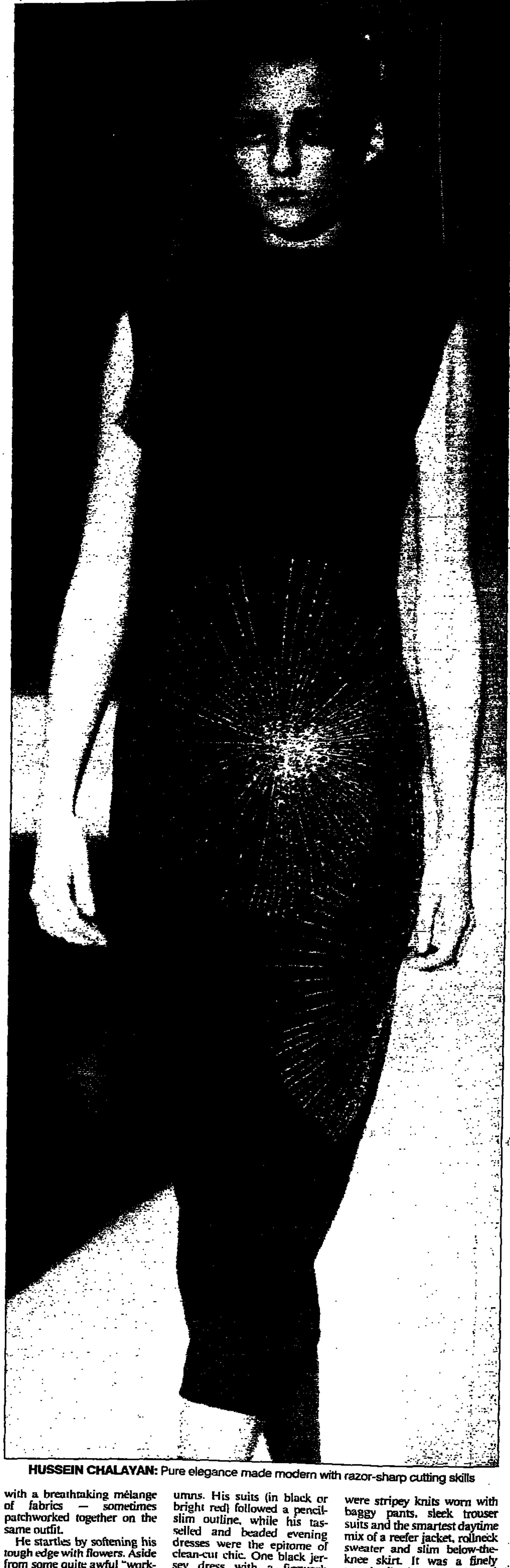
Tomasz Starzewski gets better each season — his elegant mix of brocade, satin, fake fur and leather looked sleeker than ever. At Mulberry, the accent was also on luxury, from the sumptuous sheepskins to a strictly tailored bronze brocade suit or full-length wraparound skirt edged in wine-red velvet.

Many designers, including Miu Miu, Nicole Farhi, Betty Jackson, Margaret Howell, Katharine Hamnett and Paul Frith, played around with mannish looks mixed with distinctly feminine touches — a wool or tweed coat over a sparkling sheath or a sliver of velvet, sportswear and glamour, leather and lace, sheepskin and sequins. Somewhat surprisingly, sheer is still an option for winter. Come on Mr Frith, get over it!

Berardi and Copperwheat Blundell made much of sexy, hard-edged tailoring, with great leather jackets and second-skin dresses. Berardi added pretty frilly chiffons while Copperwheat Blundell favoured furry fleece.

Knitwear fans will be pleased to see Lainey Keogh and Julien MacDonald on the London schedule. Both spin their own kind of magic with wool — rich and textured at Keogh, lightweight and airy-fairy at MacDonald.

If there was a wish-list this season then three names would be on it: McQueen, Hussein Chalayan and Clements Ribeiro, designers who have broken away from the pack and firmly established their names internationally.



HUSSEIN CHALAYAN: Pure elegance made modern with razor-sharp cutting skills

McQueen, for all his histrionics that threaten to cloud his vision, is unique. This season he portrayed the urban jungle with a breathtaking mélange of fabrics — sometimes patchworked together on the same outfit.

He startles by softening his tough edge with flowers. Aside from some quite awful "working-girl" looks (stretch denim leggings and Big Bird jackets), this collection screamed success.

It was pure elegance at Chalayan, made modern with his razor-sharp cutting skills. Slick tops and trousers (best in black or smoke blue) were followed by mohair sweater-dresses and slinky jersey columns. His suits (in black or bright red) followed a pencil-slim outline, while his tasselled and beaded evening dresses were the epitome of clean-cut chic. One black jersey dress with a firework starburst design was simply divine. The design duo Suzanne Clements and Ignacio Ribeiro make great clothes that are full of ideas — folksy motifs covered everything from smock dresses to seamen's jackets, while a sheer black shift slipped over a brightly coloured floral dress. Alongside the bolder looks were stripey knits worn with baggy pants, sleek trouser suits and the smartest daytime mix of a reefer jacket, rollneck sweater and slim below-the-knee skirt. It was a finely tuned collection which showed just why the husband and wife team have won such acclaim.

This season London Fashion Week turned out to be a real treat.

Photographer
CHRIS MOORE/
ANDREW THOMAS

● *Iain R. Webb is the fashion director of* Elle *magazine*

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The McAlpine memoirs: Day Three – Parkinson is thrown to the wolves

SALLY SOAMES

Cecil and Ann Parkinson: Margaret Thatcher had told him that there was no need to resign, but advised him to reflect on the effect that carrying on might have on his family

An invitation to a hanging

THE PARKINSON AFFAIR

Confessions of

◆

THATCHER'S BAGMAN

The Parkinson affair surfaced in the summer of 1983. The Prime Minister rang me in Australia to tell me that John Selwyn Gummer was to be appointed to the chairmanship of the party. Gummer was totally different from Parkinson: where Parkinson was open and generous, Gummer was not. He was a politician not in the grand mould of Parkinson, Ridley or Tebbit.

When the party conference came in 1983 it was in Blackpool. Cecil Parkinson, instead of a hero, the winner of a great election victory, went to that conference as if he were a man on trial. Gummer distanced himself and took what could be regarded as the moral high ground. Making no attempt to save Parkinson, he left his colleague to the political wolves. The advantage was to himself. As Gummer's efforts at charming the Conservative Party were puny by comparison with those of Parkinson's, it must have been a matter of some convenience to watch his predecessor come unstuck. It appeared that, as far as Gummer was concerned, Parkinson was about to receive just punishment from God for his adultery.

John Wakeham rallied the whips. In all the years I have attended party conferences, I can't remember one where so many whips took the trouble to come to Blackpool on the day before the conference opening, a day when normally nobody was about except the serried ranks of the press. Sadly, the whips were not there to save Parkinson's career, rather to put an end to it. Michael Spicer set out to try to save him from a ministerial resignation. Gummer took Spicer's actions extremely badly and began to regale him and myself with a litany of all the awful things that Ann Parkinson had said about Spicer. As there was nothing that Ann Parkinson could say or do that would make Spicer dislike her more than he disliked John Gummer, these words fell on deaf ears. As Michael Spicer and the Parkinsons were exceptionally close friends, I was shocked that Gummer should repeat the contents of what was obviously a desperate outburst by Ann Parkinson delivered in a private conversation at a time when she was under immense pressure. It was clear to me that the purpose of repeating that conversation was to alienate Michael Spicer from the Parkinsons.

Much later, when John Major came to power, I warned him, in print, that he should not put his trust in Gummer. "He is," I wrote, "not the sort of person that you would risk going for a walk with in St James's Park, let alone the jungle." Gummer has begun to wither on the ministerial vine. Feeding his small daughter with hamburgers during a BSE scare, along with his general sanctimonious air will surely, in time, do for him.

The first evening of the conference, I gave a party as usual and Parkinson was there. He had made a good impression on the press. He was to speak at the conference the next day. The hall was electric with excitement; the organ tinkled: it was as if we waited for a wedding. This was going to be one of those moments that those habitués of party conferences wait for and discuss for years afterwards. Cecil made his entrance. There was polite clapping where there should have been ecstatic applause. This man had, after all, devised a strategy that had won for his audience an election. The speech was of average quality, perfectly respectable and, considering the circumstances, downright brilliant. At the end the applause was at first supportive, but the chairman did not rise from his seat nor continue clapping. The Conservative activists took their cue from John Selwyn Gummer; his was the party line. It was not a wedding that they had waited for, but a trial and as they left they wondered at what time would be the hanging.

Again that evening I gave a party for the senior figures of the media. Cecil and Ann Parkinson came and Cecil almost enjoyed himself. I felt terribly sorry for Ann. It was getting late, so Ann took him to their room. Half an hour later, Ann appeared in deep distress. *The Times* had rung through the text of Sara Keays's letter that they would publish the next day. Ann, Shirley Oxenbury and I went up to Cecil's bedroom, a small room at the back of the hotel. There followed the most extraordinary human drama that I have ever witnessed.

First, Robin Butler came with a message *from the Prime* Minister. Cecil was not to worry about *The Times* article: they would discuss it in the morning. Earlier, Margaret Thatcher had told Cecil that there was no need to resign, but advised him to reflect on the effect that carrying on might have on his family.

Cecil and Ann prepared for bed. Shirley Oxenbury and I offered to leave. They both insisted that we stay and, as they busied themselves changing into their night clothes, they kept up a dialogue, he expressing his love for her and the fear that she might leave. "I love you. I could never manage without you," he kept repeating. Ann rehashed and rerehashed the problems of the day. Their small room was walled with mirrors, the images of the two of them were everywhere I looked. Robin Butler had brought whisky and pills and soon both Ann and Cecil were asleep. We had arranged to meet early the next day. By then, however, it was all over. John Cole, the BBC's political editor, had rung Cecil shortly after 5am. Unfortunately, the hotel switchboard put him straight through. Cecil had told the BBC that he would resign. That morning was frantic. Michael Portillo, Cecil's PPS, looked after him as best he could. The telephone kept ringing; the press was going mad.

I was angry at what to me was a gross injustice and I was surprised at the vicious cat fight that had occurred among colleagues, the way they had set about Cecil Parkinson as though he was a wounded animal and they, the rest of the pack. The conference finished that afternoon and tomorrow was another day. Parkinson did recover his career, but it was never the same. I visited him the day he took up his post as the Secretary of State for Energy. He sat at his desk in his Millbank office. He was signing *papers, I drinking champagne. "I am* giving away thousands of pounds," he said. I inquired what he meant. "These are resignations from my directorships," he said, pointing at the pile of letters. Parkinson was back on a ministerial salary.

'What was meant as an act of kindness cost a life'

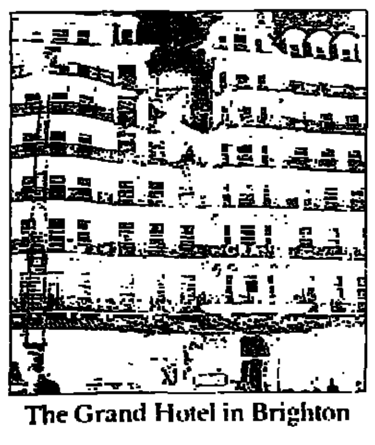
THE BRIGHTON BOMBING

Most of the summer of 1984 I spent in Australia, returning for the party conference. I gave a party and my suite was packed with journalists and politicians, businessmen and party officials. It was nearly 2.30am before the party ended.

I had, when I was deputy chairman, got into the habit of going around the ground floor of the conference hotel to see that all was quiet. I set out to do this at about 2.30am. On the stairs I met Anthony Berry returning from walking his two dogs. We gossiped for a while.

In the normal course of events, *Tony Berry would not* have had a room in the centre of the Grand Hotel, except for two coincidences. Tony had been involved in a charge of drink-driving. By chance, Lord King was vacating his room early as he had to return to London on business. Tony Berry was given Lord King's rooms. What was meant as an act of kindness cost Tony his life. After I had talked with *Tony Berry*, I decided not to go downstairs as was my normal habit. I returned to my room and went to bed. I awoke on hearing a loud explosion. My bed was covered in plaster, the room full of dust. I switched on the lights and they worked. I looked out of the window to see the floodlights illuminating a huge cloud of dust.

My first thoughts were of immense relief. Those of us close to the leadership of the party had suspected that this would happen sooner or later. Now the attack had been made and I had survived. I looked out into the hotel's passage, a part of which seemed to have disappeared. I gathered together Richard Ryder, who was totally dazed having been in a deep sleep, and Michael Spicer, who had been in the bath. Out through the bathroom window we went, intending to go down the fire escape. Coming up that fire escape, however, was a group of hysterical Spanish women. We managed to turn around this stampeding herd of Spaniards and sent them all in the right direction. Out in the street, I ran around the hotel to the front. I was among the first to get there. The street was deserted except for the police.


The Grand Hotel in Brighton

At first sight, the Grand Hotel stood there as if nothing had happened to it. Its façade was illuminated by yellow floodlights, a cloud of yellow dust hanging in the air. Then I could see that right in the centre of the hotel's façade was a hole starting at the second floor and extending for several storeys. Out of the hotel came the most terrible cries. The sight and sounds will never leave me.

I hurried to the Metropole, a new hotel not far from the Grand. There we set up a party headquarters. Many people were of the opinion that the conference should close. Margaret Thatcher had been taken from the *Grand to secure premises not far* away. There had, however, been a hitch as she was leaving. First the police sent out of the hotel a double, in case there were marksmen hiding near by. A head was seen to rise over a parapet, Margaret Thatcher's departure was delayed.

Among the many problems of opening that conference on time the following morning was that most of the hierarchy of the party had nothing to wear. We had to get them clothes, and quickly, and we decided the answer was to open Marks & Spencer as early as possible. I had, with a number of other people, found my way to Edward du Cann's rather grand suite in the Metropole. I used *his telephone to ring Marks &* Spencer's head office.

I spread the word among Brighton's taxi drivers that anyone without clothes was to be brought to M&S. I would, I told them, settle the fares. Luckily I had a considerable amount of cash on me. Standing outside the Marks & Spen*cer store, I waited for the first taxis* and soon they came thick and fast. Inside, clothes were found for all those who needed them. I am proud to say that they never looked smarter. The £10,000 bill was paid by Central Office. It was quite illuminating afterwards to note which members of the party and the Government asked to pay for their new clothes and *which members let the matter pass.*

Do you pay the cleaner in guilt?

Domestic work is no more 'them *and us' than any other employment*

I suppose it shouldn't come as a surprise that the number of people in domestic employment has risen over the past five years: after all, with more and more working couples, somebody's got to keep house. Consequently — as a new survey by the GMB union shows — the total has grown by 16 per cent, going from 142,000 people in domestic work to 166,000.

I doubt these figures are accurate: the real numbers must be much, much higher. After all, cleaners and domestics *tend* to work for cash and are highly unlikely to be giving their details to the *man or woman* from the GMB union. But even the official figures alarm the union's leader, John Edmonds. They indicate to him that we are living in an *"us and them"* age.

Mr Edmonds clearly thinks domestic work is demeaning, but surely he must see that it is that very *belief which insults those* who clean for a living. I would agree that domestic workers are routinely exploited and underpaid by their employers, but from what I can gather *it* is cleaning work in the public sector or large institutions that is the most exploitative and underpaid.

I have in the past employed people as cleaners who have also worked in hospitals (NHS and private): there, the conditions are worse and so is the pay. Cleaners tend to be treated as a job-lot of skivvies, interchangeable and expendable: their employers have little regard for them individually and indeed may not, probably don't, know their names.

Cleaning work is necessary work, for those who do the cleaning as well as those for whom they do it. Without wishing to sound too worthy, I'd say that it is essential that such work is respected. And I don't believe it *can be respected* if employing a cleaner must be a guilty secret. I would be surprised if cleaners didn't come *in to clear up the* offices of the GMB: does Mr Edmonds feel bad about this?

If he does, he would be rare among men. For the *most part, men seem* unperturbed about paying someone else to clean up after them (they seem pretty un*perturbed about not paying* someone to clear up after them, for that matter). It is women who feel ashamed about it. And I think men have got it right *here*: for surely we shouldn't feel embarrassed about paying someone to do a job, provided we pay them properly.

Those who feel the worst are probably the ones most likely to pay badly. After all, if you think there is something inherently shameful about paying someone *to* clean, that it is an act of slovenliness and extravagance, then the more you curb that "extravagance" *the* better you'll feel. If you can justify having someone in because it doesn't cost that much, or because you can congratulate yourself on finding a bargain, I'm afraid it doesn't make you a very good employer.

I think most women *do* feel guilty about employing a cleaner though, and at least it benefits the cleaner if the guilt spurs you on to pay over the going rate. (It would be better if a minimum wage existed, so that employees weren't dependent on the quirk of an employer's nature.) But the guilt itself must be annoying for the cleaner.

I have worked as a cleaner (I was a chambermaid in Italy between school and university) and I never minded the work, provided I was allowed to get on with it. Admittedly, it wasn't for life, and I don't pretend it was that or starvation — but it was the only job I could get at the time and I was happy to do it.

Most of us, though, have an irritating habit of apologising before asking someone to clean an oven or iron a shirt. We feel we should be doing it ourselves, or that the cleaner is thinking we're despicable slatterns for not. But I expect the cleaner would much rather we paid her properly, treated her with respect and thanked her for her work, rather than apologised for it. It is a discourtesy, apart from anything else, to make *her feel that the very em*ployment you're asking her to undertake is an insult.

Nigella Lawson

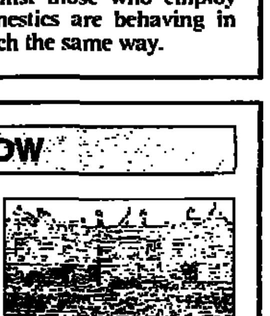
Perhaps an element of guilt is inevitable: after all, *one is paying someone to do the jobs one can't bear to do* oneself. And domestic employment is bound to be a sensitive area, because in *the home one doesn't have* the distancing, neutralising structures of office and professional life. The relationship is more intimate and the *notion* of giving orders or exercising authority — even if neither is ever expressed as such — jars.

The reality is, of course, *that* cleaning work is no more "us and them" than any form of employment: there is always the person who pays and the person who is paid.

Evelyn Waugh had in *Scoop* a revolutionary who shouted at waiters in restaurants because the usual obsequies maintained the *iniquities of the class sys*tem. I can't help feeling that union leaders who inveigh against those who employ domestics are behaving in much the same way.

TOMORROW

Christmas at Chequers



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Alan Coren

■ What's got eight limbs, all-round vision and goes for a spin in safety?

You have to hand it to Reed Personnel Services. Quite what it is you have to hand to them, mind, must remain a matter of personal choice: some of you may wish to send them a big bunch of daffs, others may prefer to foot the bill for a major shrink, not a few may feel that the kindliest act would be to leave a Lüger on Reed's escritoire with one valedictory cartridge up the spout, but whichever each chooses, all must surely agree that, in recognition of their latest corking wheeze, the nation's top recruitment honchos deserve everything they get.

They have already got much. They have got 1,000 new ideas for the next government. Since this is rather more than 1,000 times the number of new ideas possessed by any of the parties currently begging to form that government, you are entitled to ask where Reed got all these new ideas from: the answer is from 38,000 Britons they recently mailed, thereby tapping a vein of amateur political inventiveness to such haemorrhage that, beside it, the professional one has been exposed as the thrombotic item it is, so clogged with clots as to betray even the most restrained hack into extended metaphors he can scarce control. And also to leave him spoilt for choice: ought I address myself to the suggestion that all MPs, before being allowed into the chamber, should be breathalysed, ought I consider the wisdom of offering free martial arts lessons to OAPs, ought I to conflate the two and envisage that joyous day when 659 drunks forced to mooch the Commons forecourt are set upon by mobs of kung-fu grannies incensed by the House's failure to — a third new idea, this — provide them with free fresh fish? None of these. I plump today for a yet more radical notion, not only because it addresses what Reed identifies as a prime area of concern (roads), but also because its wondrous wackiness invites me to trump it with a new idea of my own far more likely to mitigate that concern.

The Reed-borne idea is to fit a pointed steel spike to the centre of every steering wheel, thus ensuring road safety by persuading motorists to drive everywhere very slowly, to avoid ending up *en brochette*. Now, knowing drivers as I do, I could conclude only that this idea must have been sent in by an undertaker, so at once began working on mine. Call it Idea 1,001. It is, admittedly, a longer-term solution than the spike, but this in no way diminishes its electoral clout, because, for the next few weeks, the idea is all that counts, and mine is unquestionably one whose time has come.

For this is a genetic time, so the solution to our gravest worry must surely be not to destroy unsafe motorists, but to create safe ones. And the reason motorists are unsafe is that man was originally designed to move at a top speed of 15mph, for which two eyes, four limbs, slow reflexes, and frangible bones were perfectly adequate; if he crashed into another man, each got up, shook himself, and trotted on. But when man invented a tin box empowering him to move at ten times his natural speed, his natural kit proved to be so unfitted to cope with this that he began killing himself and his kind in umpteen new ways. Man, it turned out, was not made right. The solution, therefore, lies in his genes.

Or will. His genes must be tinkered with. Man needs three limbs for the pedals, two for the wheel, one for the gearstick, one for the car-phone, and one to lash out at offspring distracting *him* from behind. He also needs eyes both in the back of his head and on either side of it, a body able to be hurled through the air without injury, and reflexes keyed to split-second evasive action, in any direction. Also, it wouldn't hurt if, on top of all this, he had a mouth programmed to snap up any intruding fly dumb enough to buzz hazardously across his vision.

Yes, you have twigged. I am talking about the arachnoid gene: rush the Spider Bill through on May 2, and within a generation, only those able to show the examiner they can read eight number-plates simultaneously and run up the MoT wall will be granted a licence. As to which party will triumph with this little winner, who can say, but Reed's think-tank must be delighted that, for once, Lord Sutch is in there with a chance.

A FRESH LOOK AT YOUTH CRIME

Two faces of Englishness

However different, the squire and the sybarite were both defenders of excellence

Simon Jenkins

Two men of my acquaintance were laid to rest last week. Family and friends gathered at the respective churches. Eulogies were delivered on happy lives and successful careers. England bade farewell to its sons with due ceremony.

The two could not have been less alike. One was a Cavalier, the other a Roundhead, one an Anglican, the other a Dissenter, one a Tory, the other never. Drape the one in a Union Jack and he would cheer; the other would groan. Both would term themselves middle-class, but the contrast between them was almost Disraelian, "inhabitants of different planets, formed by different breeding, fed by different food, ordered by different manners". Yet both were English, indeed together they were the warp and woof of Englishness. One was Sir Joshua Rowley Bt, late Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk. The other was Christopher Driver, late of *The Guardian*.

Sir Joshua was the 7th Baronet, of Tendring in the county of Suffolk. He began his career at Eton, Cambridge and the Grenadiers. His rubicund face and jovial smile used to beam down the dinner tables of Suffolk, down which Rowleys had beamed since the 18th century. Though descended from admirals, Rowley followed his father into the Guards. He served in Africa and Italy and was captured by the Germans. After the Army, he married a viscount's daughter and settled down as squire, farmer and county grandee. Suffolk landscape was his life and his love, low hills and wide valleys, hedges and spinneys, guns and dogs, half-timbering, claret and Constable. Rowley worked with (squires do not work *for*) the National Trust, and rose to be chairman of Suffolk County Council. He had an East Anglian's care for money, but was no philistine. He collected books and pictures and wore his culture with an easy charm.

The family once shared with Poleys, Bacons and Greenes a suzerainty over southern Suffolk. They formed the refrain to "Froggie would a'wooing go", an otherwise obscure reference to the four families as "Rowley, Poley, Gammon and Spinach". The Rowley seat was Tendring Hall at Stoke-by-Nayland, built by John Soane in 1784 for a Rowley ancestor. The house decayed and was sadly demolished in the 1960s. Sir Joshua regreted its demolition and committed himself through the National Trust to saving such houses in future. He held onto the Tendring land with its sumptuous views over Dedham Vale. Restoring Stoke church was a life's work and he was buried last week in the shadow of its great tower. A grave could ask for no finer guardian.

In days when local government was as proud a service in England as it still is in the rest of Europe, Rowley ran Suffolk. To him, politics was the ordering of land, service to parish and county, and to the Crown through the lord-lieutenancy. London for Rowley was Purdey's, Pratt's and the MCC. Parliament was for younger sons, tradesmen and oddballs. Real men ran counties.

This was the politics that the Thatcher-Major Conservative Party has torn apart. Inspectors, directors and John Gummers were sent to tell Sir Joshua Rowley and his successors that they could not be trusted to fix so much as a penny rate. Mr Gummer knew better than a Rowley what was good for Suffolk. Rowley's face on this subject was pure Colonel Blimp. The smile froze, the eyes bulged, the red of the cheeks darkened and the veins appeared ready to burst.

Rowley was a conservative but not a pessimist. He was sure that Suffolk would survive the assaults of London politicians, as the National Trust would survive its "confounded bureaucrats". But conserving Suffolk was a perpetual battle. It needed the commitment of those who knew buildings and land, who felt an obligation to those who worked them. It needed local autonomy, money and a fear of God. Above all it needed people like Rowley.

I wonder how Christopher Driver would have described Rowley. Driver was the son of a Nonconformist doctor-missionary in south India. His parents had money enough to see him through a similar educational mill to Rowley's. He went to the Dragon School, was head boy of Rugby and read Greats at Christ Church. Yet as Cambridge could not divert Rowley from his paternal course, nor could Oxford divert Driver. Not for him the Grenadiers but, as a conscientious objector, the Friends Ambulance Service, followed by the news desk of the *Liverpool Daily Post*. Not for him the deputy secretaryship of the National Trust, but the editorship of *The Good Food Guide*. Driver was, as Bill Webb recalled in last week's *Guardian*, "a Christian with mandarin tastes, a serious sybarite and a bit of a snob".

I venture that only an English reader could fully appreciate the nuance of epithets applied half-admiringly to Driver that would be offensive applied to Rowley. The gulf is not cultural, and is only partly social. No war, politics, business or profession was likely to bring these two together. Rowley's rural Toryism would have been anathema to Driver's urban radicalism, and vice versa. Driver's career began with that colonial service of left-wing journalism, a sojourn on a northern newspaper. But he soon returned to his natural habitat in Highgate, where his family played quartets and worshipped at what is now the United Reformed Church. The nearest he came to business was maintaining his father's antiquarian bookshop in Dorset.

The apex of Driver's career was his controversial editorship of *The Good Food Guide* in 1970-82. He was chosen by his predecessor, Raymond Postgate, as much for his radicalism and classical education as for any culinary skill. The *Guide* was a "herbivore" reaction to the awfulness of British cooking in the 1950s. It savaged bad food camouflaged by flashy presentation, and was duly detested by big hotels and *haute cuisine*. I once dined with Driver at the new Inigo Jones restaurant, surrounded by stained glass and piped Mozart. He sat bearded in his tweed jacket and red tie at a side table to which his appearance had consigned him. He spent the meal wrestling with an imperious waiter who constantly tried to remove his bread roll.

If Sir Joshua Rowley's food was the roast beef of old England, albeit served with a noble Pomerol, Driver's was steamed brill and mangetout. His fall-back was chicken koorma with saffron nan: he lauded the Chinese and Indians for bolstering English catering through its darkest post-war years. But when the Young Turks of the bistros graduated to smart restaurants in the 1970s, Driver was attacked as a killjoy. He gave not an inch, deriding his critics as "a branch of showbusiness". Eventually, *The Guardian* claimed him back, to bring a unique elegance to writing about food. His book *The British at Table 1940-1980* is a masterpiece of sardonic prose.

Driver's town pursuits were as varied as Rowley's country ones. He wrote on the Free Churches, Schubert, universities, CND and poetry. Some Englishmen wear incorruptibility on their sleeves. Driver would have been a preacher in Cromwell's New Model Army, had he not been a pacifist. That his integrity was dedicated to, of all things, restaurant cooking may seem eccentric. But like the best intellectuals, Driver was "silent in seven languages". He would have murmured as he perused another menu, "God is in the details".

Perhaps I can find here a final meeting of the ways. In my last conversation with Rowley, I recall his fixation with "getting the countryside right". This was not a matter of balancing subsidies, of conceding a housing estate here or a bypass there. Rural England required faith, and faith without short-cuts. If Dedham Vale could not sustain a way of life, it would simply be "The Constable Experience". Social and natural ecology were indivisible. The landscape would not conserve itself. To Sir Joshua, this was today's *noblesse oblige*.

Rowley would have cried Amen to Driver's *Times* obituary. It recalled his acerbity towards all who wrote a sloppy word or served a heavy sauce. "He was not inclined to reassure those who betrayed their calling by letting standards slip," it said. For him, standards were equally a well-judged soufflé or a well-turned paragraph, as for Rowley they were a well-laid hedge or a well-timed royal visit. For both men, attention to detail was a token of excellence. In their divergent walks of life, both saw that excellence threatened and desperately short of defence.

As of last week, the ranks of the defenders are depleted by two.

A united states of the euro?

America's founders show the way, says

Gary L. McDowell

Malcolm Rifkind's speech in Paris this week laid bare the deepest issue in the debate over EU and the push for monetary union: Britain's continued independence and the future of the nation-state. No doubt his speech will do little to quiet the snarling and snapping, but he at least has history on his side, as even the most cursory glance at the original American debate over federalism reveals.

Many of the questions now being raised in Britain were at issue during the creation of the United States Constitution in 1787-88. The concerns that led the Americans to draft their new Constitution, like those that have led Europe towards greater integration, were economics and trade. The sovereignty of the federated states under the Articles of Confederation (America's first Constitution) was not conducive to the kind of co-operation that a union of states has to have to encourage commerce. To remedy this, the states resolved to meet and reach agreements on how best to unite in order better to serve their common interests. As various efforts failed to produce the needed agreements, they were eventually driven to what became the Constitutional Convention of 1787, at which more far-reaching decisions were taken and the nature of the confederation was drastically changed.

A key element of this transformation dealt with the power to coin money, regulate its value, and to establish the value of foreign currency. The American founders understood, as the great jurist Blackstone had said, that the "coining of money is in all states the act of the sovereign power". Under the Articles of Confederation, the states had held with the central authority a concurrent power to coin money. The failure to give the national authority complete power in this area was deemed by many, as James Madison put it, "a material omission" in that early Constitution.

In the US Constitution ultimately ratified in 1788, this problem was addressed in two provisions. The first empowered the newly created Congress to exercise the power "to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin". At the same time, this new and strongly national document unambiguously prohibited such powers from being exercised by the several states: "No state shall . . . coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts." State sovereignty would never be the same.

The logic that had led to this was powerful and ultimately convincing. The great objectives sought by the confederation could not be achieved under its existing, decentralised forms of governance. There had to be something beyond the sum of the parts, and that had to be a true government with power sufficient to make the several constituent states abide by the decisions made at the national level. Part of the reason the early Americans moved in this direction was that the states had not conducted themselves well. There had been a plethora of noxious legislation at the state level, ranging from the abolition of debts to what the founders derided as the "rage for paper money". The result had been laws detrimental to the rights of property and of individuals. If the young commercial republic was to succeed and prosper, the old confederation simply had to give way.

Parallels are tricky, often appearing to be more apposite than they are. But one cannot help noticing in the American experience traces of theoretical concerns that are much the same in the current debate over European monetary union and whether Britain should take part. On the one hand, it is not unreasonable to suggest that a single currency would greatly facilitate trade within a market that is truly common. But on the other hand, it is equally clear that the power to coin money is an essential part of sovereignty, and to cede so fundamental a power would indeed *strike* at the very heart of British independence. Those who doubt the soundness of a single currency for that reason may well find in the American experience lessons that suggest even greater caution.

This is because the deepest lesson to be drawn from America's founding debates goes beyond the particular concerns such as the power to coin money. What the creation of the American republic shows is that confederations rarely work. The most theoretically sophisticated of those early Americans was Madison, who prepared for the Constitutional Convention by steeping himself in the histories of previous confederacies. His conclusion was that the centrifugal pull of member states is almost always too strong, and that there was rarely to be found anything beyond the sum of the parts. The ultimate solution to the vices of the confederal form was to transcend it and move towards a more consolidated national government.

If Madison was right, if there is always a deficiency to be found in confederations, then the implications for the debate in Britain over a single currency are even more profound, because there *will* be a gradual movement towards greater integration at the expense of the sovereignty of the member nations. This will all be done in the name of expediency, arguing that such a movement is nothing more than the drawing out of the implications of the original agreement. Such clear examples of the diminution of sovereignty as monetary union will, if undertaken, be looked back upon as the first step towards something very different from a mere confederation for purposes of trade.

THE TIMES DIARY

Billy boy

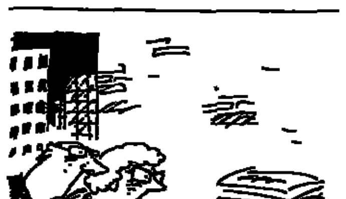
PRESIDENT Clinton should have thought twice the other night before he went to see the musical *Chicago* at a New York theatre with his wife. Not only is the show of a raunchy nature, with plenty of bosomy showgirls and frolicksome dance routines, but one of the songs, delivered by doe-eyed beauties in garters and bustiers, runs "We want Billy — give us Billy!" At this, all eyes in the theatre turned to Clinton, who very obviously started to stroke Hillary's arm.

Moments later, a character on stage gave a line which talked about what women of dubious morals will "touch for a deuce". Someone at the back of the auditorium shouted "Paula Jones!" — the woman suing Clinton for alleged gross indecency some years ago — which caused a ripple of giggles. The President, fast becoming embarrassed, kissed Mrs Clinton on the head.

When it came to another line in the show which runs "whatever happened to pure ethics?", fellow audience members were in the desperate stages of laughter-control, stuffing hankies in their mouths, holding their noses against the pressure of rising mirth, and dabbing tissues at tear-dampened eyes.

Even the chorus girls were having a hard time not corpsing. It may be some time before the Clintons risk another trip to a Broadway show.

● *Pre-election tension is mounting at Referendum Party headquarters in Horseferry Road, where the managing director, Malcolm Glenn, has confiscated the staff-room television. It was meant to be used for watching the news, but Glenn snapped when he found his troops lounging around, gripped by a programme about the fathers of prostitutes.*



"To turn me Tory they'd have to marry off Ted Heath"

Early fears

POLITICAL documentary-maker Michael Cockerell has a new hero. Preparing to lecture at the National Film Theatre tomorrow about politics and broadcasting over the century, Cockerell came across Cecil Hepworth, who arranged the first "kinematograph interviews" with leading politicians, back in the First World War.

In 1916, he was planning to film a meeting of Lloyd George's Cabinet, but when the story leaked out, his arrangements had to be cancelled. He wrote: "The Cabinet feared ridicule: how the people of a few years hence will laugh at the dignity which was afraid of being sullied by contact with the 'kinematograph'." Cockerell knows exactly what he meant.

● *There were sharp words yesterday when the Foreign Secretary met the Burmese Ambassador to London, U Win Aung. Malcolm Rifkind had been reluctant to meet a representative of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the fiendishly anti-democratic military junta running Burma. "Good luck in your elections Mr Rifkind," said U Win Aung as he left. "And good luck in your elections," said Rifkind, "if you ever decide to hold them." U Win Aung, you lose some.*

Keep moving

NUDE dancers brightened up the English National Opera's terrific new production of Gluck's *Orfeus and Eurydice* (at under an hour and a half it is ideal for those who regard opera as an inconvenience between drinks and dinner). Tastefully choreographed by the American Martha Clark, the dancers, who also perform clothed, strip off as Orpheus roves through the Elysian fields in search of his dead lover.

Sadly, they declined to pose for publicity photographs. "They felt it was one thing to dance naked for artistic reasons appropriate to the scene," explained a spokesman, "but quite another to do it for still photographs which might end up who knows where."

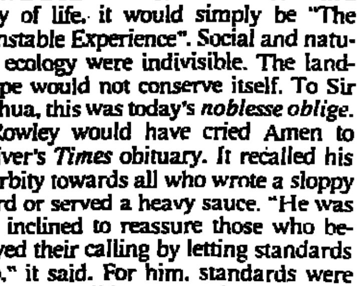
Seating plan

FOR all their dark reputation, the Tory whips have a soft, giving side, as they showed yesterday when they found some spare tickets for the party of Ben Chapman, the new Labour MP for Wirral South, who arrived to take his seat. Ten members of the family and friends came to see Chapman installed, and the Labour whips did not have enough tickets for them all to sit in the Strangers' Gallery. Labour's men approached Murdo Maclean, the private secretary to Alastair Goodlad, the Tory chief whip, who rustled up two spare tickets, despite the drubbing Chapman gave the Conservatives last week. "We would have done the same," says an ungrateful Labour whip.

Yapping

ONE of Governor Chris Patten's two Norfolk terriers has had a close escape from Hong Kong's "Bowen Road dog poisoner". Writing to the *South China Morning Post*, Patten's wife Lavender recounts how she was walking the dogs, Whisky and Soda, along a popular trail when Whisky snapped up a piece of chicken. It was later found to be soaked in an insecticide-style poison.

Whisky survived, writes Mrs Patten, but other pets have not been so lucky. She suggests owners muzzle their pets, urges passers-by to watch for any suspicious behaviour in the area, and concludes: "Who knows, one day a child may be affected."



Lavender with half a drink

P·H·S

A united states of the euro?

JOHN AND BRIAN

The Tories need to become the party of one message

Another day, another relaunch. John Major's decision to face a phone-in programme on Radio 5 Live was doubtless designed to seize the initiative. As so often in the past, he offered a solid performance but was obliged to excuse the latest embarrassment caused by his colleagues. Stephen Dorrell's indiscretion has been read as a reflection of his own ambition to lead the Tories. If so, Mr Major should take some comfort: it means that the occupant of Number Ten is currently heading only the second most improbable campaign in British politics.

With, at most, eight weeks until election day arrives there are clear limits on what the Conservatives can do to alter their fate. The imprint of 18 years in power is not one that spin-doctors can eradicate. No seismic shift in the personality or leadership style of the Prime Minister can be credibly created. Nor, in truth, could policy positions be dramatically recrafted. Even on Europe and the single currency, where party strategists rightly yearn to take a much tougher line than the Chancellor will permit, a sudden change at this stage is extremely unlikely and would reek of insincerity if it came.

The Conservatives' best hope lies in linking their two strongest cards: the state of the economy and public uncertainty about new Labour. They can still argue that better times would be badly threatened by a change of government. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, despite a prolonged and laudable effort on their part, have not yet convinced voters that the economy is safe in their hands. The same polls that show the Tories trailing by 20 points also reveal real fears of higher taxes, spending and interest rates if Labour win. The latest Conservative poster blitz — "Tony and Bill" — may be so crude as to undermine its own effectiveness. But it is located in the right territory.

If the coming contest is solely centred on the question of who can best protect the prosperity Britain has recently enjoyed, therein lies the Tories' one slim chance. Almost any discussion of different issues is a distraction that will ultimately benefit Mr Blair. The whole Cabinet has to stick to that single script without deviation. Labour will doubtless claim with indignation that this constitutes the most negative approach in political history. All that matters for Mr Major is that it might be effective.

That message itself is more important than the messengers. Nevertheless, prospects would be improved if the Prime Minister stood squarely and publicly behind his party chairman. The purported election roles of Lord Cranborne, Sarah Hogg and Jonathan Hill has allowed, perhaps unfairly, an unflattering comparison with the famously factional 1987 campaign to develop. The position of Michael Heseltine as the main media frontman adds a further element of uncertainty. The 35-year-old William Hague would be better placed than the Deputy Prime Minister to dispute the Labour charge that it is time for a change.

Brian Mawhinney may well lack warmth and personal charm. But the staff he has selected at Smith Square are strikingly superior to those of five years ago. His party conference last year was an unexpected success. The "New Labour, New Danger" advertising effort may have been controversial but it was also distinctive. Government performance, not party presentation, has been the problem that persistently handicaps the Conservatives. Mr Major has already been through three Central Office supremos in this Parliament. He should strive to reinforce the current one.

There is no point in Conservatives wishing for a campaign that will not happen. Like it or not, their record, leader, and core policies are all fixed. The search for some extra magic element will add only confusion not clarity. Instead the party of One Nation needs to become the party of one message. Conservative Central Office has operated on that principle for some time. If ministers cannot, or will not, manage that then they might as well go back to their constituencies and prepare for opposition.

ALBANIA'S PRESS

Freedom of speech must be restored — and fast

One of the most important indications that Sali Berisha was leading Albania towards a more open and democratic society was his tolerance of a pluralist press. And one of the most depressing aspects of his response to the turmoil now engulfing the country was his immediate censorship of all news media, the blackout in the transmission of satellite television pictures from Tirana and the ban on foreign journalists travelling outside the capital. The authoritarian response, learnt during 45 years of isolation and dictatorship, cast doubt on President Berisha's commitment to press freedom and pluralist democracy, which are the foundations of all the European political, military and economic organisations Albania aspires to join.

The immediate outcry in the West appears to have forced the Albanians to think again. The Foreign Ministry now says that the press restrictions, promulgated in the state of emergency, do not apply to foreign news organisations. Television pictures may again be broadcast from Albania. The heavy-handed turning back of journalists at police blocks on roads leading out of Tirana has been replaced with official "advice" that travel in the south was unsafe.

There has been no let-up, however, in the restrictions on local media. Indeed, the most sinister development has been the increasing intimidation, not only of the press but of all opposition activists. Behaving with the same ruthlessness that made Enver Hoxha's secret police among the most hated in any dictatorship, Shik plainclothes thugs have been threatening foreign and domestic journalists, smashing their cars and inciting crowds to turn on those suspected of reporting the violence. Under the cover of darkness and curfew, Shik agents have set fire to newspaper buildings. No wonder more than half the population now listen to the BBC to try to find out what is going on.

The Albanian Government accuses foreign journalists of inciting violence. To impute such a motive betrays a feeble grasp of impartial reporting, a concept that had no meaning in Albania's postwar history and is, clearly, still deeply suspect, especially to Mr Berisha. It is not likely to become clearer to him now. Violence has fed on the attention it has drawn to the protesters' grievances, he must . Former Communists, opportunists and criminals have taken advantage of the popular anger, and copycat looting and burning has quickly led to anarchy. Ancient tribal enmities between the Tosks in the north, where Mr Berisha draws his support, and the Ghegs in the south, where Hoxha came from, are also now a factor.

Mr Berisha is still the elected leader, although his wooden, surreal re-election on Monday by parliamentary acclaim had all the pretence of an old-style dictatorship. The ultimatum to the rioters and armed gangs now roaming the south to hand over their weapons is justified, though hopes of restraint by the police and army are probably not. The cost of the upheaval is already incalculable, and Albania's fumbling attempts to escape grinding poverty will be set back years. Democracy is staggering in Europe's poorest country. If it is not to be stifled altogether, free voices must be restored to print and the airwaves.

MURDER MOST LITERARY

The Times helps to teach the tricks of a noble trade

It was a dark and stormy night: just as the oldest and best thrillers start. Nevertheless, last night hundreds turned out for a debate on the art of literary murder. They could easily have stayed at home beside the fire, snatching at the pages to find out how a down-and-out dosser came to starve to death in the wealthy architect's garage, although there was plenty of food within reach. Instead, they chose to brave the storms for *The Times*/Dillons forum on the subtle art of contemporary crime writing.

Why? Partly they represented the modern hunger for live and public enetertainment instead of the broadcast and private kind. Some were attracted by the celebrity of the speakers. Colin Dexter is the eagle of the trade, broadcast far beyond the reading public by his *Inspector Morse* on television. Minette Walters is the eaglet, whose psychodrama about the case of the hungry tramp stands fourth on the bestseller list. But a number came to learn how to do the trick themselves. Write-it-yourself courses are now extremely popular, and a useful extra source of income for those who have proved publicly that they can write and, better still, get themselves published.

Ever since Sherlock Holmes, Englishmen have been born with a detective story fixed to their umbilical cords. Ever since Miss Marple, Englishwomen have been even better at the native genre. And crime writing should be easier to teach than other sorts. Much crime writing is formulaic. Readers like it that way, as familiar as old slippers. They want their surprises *in the plot, not in* the manner or the mannerism of the writing.

One virtue of the detective story is that it is a comfortable solace, a sort of mental knitting where it does not matter much if you drop a stitch. The readers of a mystery story want to get to the end of it, to find out what happened to the dosser. The readers of a Dickens or Henry James story wish that it might never end. They read a Dickens or James story six times because they know it so well. They read a detective story six times because they can forget its ending six times.

Of course, crime writing comes in many covers, from the old-fashioned detective story, with a body in the garage and a solution, to the thud and blunder of American cops and the nightmare shores of Rendellian psychosis. But crime writing has to be professional and *well-crafted. The field is* crowded. The best thrillers perform the honourable old function of keeping the pages turning. The crime story is an extension of the fairytale and the older myth. It is melodrama so camouflaged as to create the illusion that the story being told, however improbable, could be true. Some tricks can be taught. Perhaps Minette Walters and Colin Dexter brought on some new talent last night. The new crime writers will also need lively imaginations and considerable skill with words, never forgetting the doggedness to apply bottom to chair until the daily quota is written.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

McAlpine memoir taken to task

From Baroness Falkender

Sir, May I comment upon the extract about myself from Alastair McAlpine's "knock-about" memoirs, which appears in *The Times* today.

At no time in 1979, or before or since, have I asked to see senior Tory advisers to offer them advice. I have never asked to see advisers to any political leader of any party to offer advice. That is not what happened.

I simply accepted an invitation from Lord Hanson to have drinks at the home of two of his closest friends and colleagues — who were my friends too. Political advisers often receive invitations in this way. Harold Wilson, for whom I was still working, strongly urged me to accept since he always hoped that more might be learned then and later about the background to the very nasty stories circulating at that time, culminating in the *Spycatcher* outpourings and continued to this day. On that particular occasion there were exchanges about those stories in particular as well as the political scene in general.

My views were in any case well known at the time. I was involved in a series of articles for the London *Evening News* during the election period, so what I thought was public knowledge.

The Labour Party did not refuse to pay my salary in 1974. They had never paid my salary at any time, either then, before, or after. They were never asked to do so, and had they offered the offer would have been refused.

It is no revelation that I "was very taken with the idea of having a woman prime minister". It was public knowledge at that time from articles, interviews, and elsewhere that I found the idea very interesting indeed. A large number of women, both in the Labour Party and elsewhere shared that interest. Indeed, more recently Mr Blair himself has gone further and expressed qualified admiration for Margaret Thatcher. In 1975, only two of Harold Wilson's immediate circle, namely Peter Shore and myself, had felt that it would be difficult if not impossible for Labour to win against a woman Prime Minister. We were right. And that was without the Winter of Discontent and a badly chosen election date.

As to my alleged "contempt . . . for the people who ran the Labour Party", referred to by Alastair, it was not "incredible". It was non-existent. I have often been saddened and disillusioned by the disloyalty and desertion in politics — on all sides — but contemptuous never, for that is a bitter and unhealthy characteristic and politics is a rough trade.

Alastair is a very intelligent, funny and gregarious fellow, with many friends and admirers, and it is always interesting and enjoyable to be in his company. I have known him since he first visited Downing Street during the 1974-76 period, when he even half-jokingly suggested, after meeting Harold Wilson, that he felt he, Alastair, ought to join Labour. But like us all, he has now in his dotage, unaware of the agendas of others, taken to living in his own private bubble where perhaps all is not exactly as he perceived it to be.

Yours sincerely,
MARCIA FALKENDER,
3 Wyndham Mews,
Upper Montagu Street, W1.
March 3.

No joking matter

From Dr Ioan Bowen Rees

Sir, In my days at school and university in England the Welsh were hero-worshipped for their superior state education, their classlessness, their progressive politics, their singing and their sport.

It strikes me that the derision described by Jan Morris (letter, St David's Day) dates largely from the time, some 18 years ago, when the Welsh voted against having their own elected assembly. A nation which lacks the backbone for a democratic forum of its own is bound to become a laughing stock amongst yobs.

Later this year, we shall probably have an opportunity to redeem ourselves in another referendum. This time let us bear in mind that thousands of the English refugees who have managed to escape to a more community-minded Wales will be helping to stiffen our democratic resolve.

Yours faithfully,
IOAN BOWEN REES,
Tal-Sarn, Llanllechid,
Bangor, Gwynedd.
March 2.

Joe Orton papers

From Mr John Nye

Sir, Have the Orton family considered photocopying the playwright's papers (Diary, March 1)? Leicester and an American university might then both be able to benefit.

This thought first occurred to me at the time our lottery gave so much to the Churchill family for papers, the value of which to scholars is surely in the content.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NYE,
20 Court Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
March 3.

Politics of hope: personal liberty v traditional morality

From Professor David Conway

Sir, In the extracts which you published last week from his book, *The Politics of Hope* (February 22-25), Rabbi Jonathan Sacks contends that much of the sorry state of civic life in Britain today can be attributed to the displacement of traditional Judaeo-Christian morality by the abstract secular individualism brought into prominence by the Enlightenment. A more secure and convivial social order, he argues, would follow the reinstatement of these values at the heart of public life and morality.

Not so, argues Rabbi David Goldberg (letter, February 27):

> The Judaeo-Christian tradition was hardly an all-embracing value system. Its ideal form of government was a theocracy. Principles we take for granted, like democracy, freedom of belief, equality of the sexes, are a result of the Enlightenment, not the Judaeo-Christian tradition.

One can understand such an objection being advanced by a secularist. When voiced by someone professing to stand within the tradition, they are truly astonishing. How can any self-professed Jew or Christian, let alone a rabbi (however liberal), take exception to theocracy as a political ideal?

Every week on the Sabbath, when putting away the scrolls of the Pentateuch after reading from them their weekly portion, Jews throughout the world call upon God to "return unto the ten thousands of the thousands of Israel" and "renew our days as of old". *What is this but a plea for God to* send his promised messiah, or anointed, to restore the Israelite theocracy and thereby usher in an age of everlasting peace and justice?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CONWAY
(Head of School of Philosophy
and Religious Studies),
Middlesex University,
White Hart Lane, N17.
March 3.

From Mr David Selbourne

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Dr Sacks's road to Salem", March 1) accuses the Chief Rabbi of "moral hysteria" for his observations on our civic condition. Yet he himself employs the most fevered of images and the most violent of terms with which to denounce Dr Sacks for his (rather anodyne) moral proposals.

For all Jenkins's bluster, no civic order can rest upon a notion of liberty which, in the name of protecting "democracy" from "moral totalitarianism", offers little more than a beggar-my-neighbour ideal of personal self-realisation through unimpeded freedom of action.

We certainly do not want the peddling of vacuous moral politics in personal crusades and the rest of it, which have more to do with self-promotion and the search for honour than any worthier motive. But we equally do not want the amorality which suggests that every general moral principle is, almost by definition, "authoritarian" and the individual who espouses it a "fundamentalist" or "totalitarian".

By Jenkins's route we come not to witches' trials in Salem but to that state of nature described by Hobbes in which "every man has a right to all things [and] to do whatever he listeth to whom he listeth". We cannot have a moral free-for-all, disguised as "freedom", and a civic society together.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SELBOURNE,
United Oxford & Cambridge
University Club,
71 Pall Mall, SW1.
March 2.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, Jonathan Sacks's "politics of hope" is full of good intentions but also full of bad arguments. As Simon Jenkins points out today, virtually all his factual and theoretical claims are open to obvious objections.

It is especially futile to attempt the rehabilitation of the Judaeo-Christian tradition, when its origins are so dubious and its effects so ambiguous, and when so many of our most precious values (humanity, rationality and secularity; liberty, equality and fraternity; reciprocity, democracy and solidarity) arose before or outside or after it.

It is also ultimately fatuous to devalue the Enlightenment and secular humanism, when they share so many of Jonathan Sacks's own aims and provide so much surer bases for them. As he said himself (February 21) he worked with Hugo Gryn in spite of rather than because of their religion, "for the sake of their common humanity". That is our best hope.

Yours etc,
NICOLAS WALTER,
Rationalist Press Association,
88 Islington High Street, N1.
March 1.

*From the Chancellor
of Lincoln Cathedral*

Sir, Simon Jenkins's polemic against Dr Sacks polarises where there is no need. The Chief Rabbi's commitment to the power of social and religious institutions need not be at odds with democracy: nor need Simon Jenkins's concern for individual freedoms be at odds with the renewal of those institutions and communities.

Caricatures of the Enlightenment usually lie behind such false alternatives. The authority it gave to individual moral reasoning is either pilloried as the precursor to all modern ills of moral anarchy and social fragmentation — or else it is lauded as the great liberator from social and religious oppression.

The debate also feeds on the *fear* these false polarities evoke. We are either heading inexorably towards total post-modern disintegration — or we are being pulled back to some form of social, moral or even religious authoritarianism.

There is no doubt the debate itself is important, and I trust *The Times* will keep it high on its agenda. But we must keep our balance within it. We badly need a renewal of our Judaeo-Christian moral and social inheritance: but we also need its interaction with the best fruits of the Enlightenment legacy.

Our current social and political malaise is serious enough to merit sharp judgment. But false polemic merely makes matters worse.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON WHITE,
Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral,
The Chancery,
11 Minster Yard, Lincoln.
March 3.

From Ms Judith Da Fano

Sir, In the interest of making life more liberal, perhaps Dr David Goldberg, Senior Rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue (letter, February 27), could try to do a very small thing which might produce a great change for Jewish women: stop men thanking God every day in their prayers that they are born men.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH DA FANO
(*Grand-daughter of a*
former Chief Rabbi of Milan),
Laburnum House, Main Street,
Milnthorpe, Cumbria.
February 27.

A ban on Burma

*From the General Secretary of the
International Confederation of
Free Trade Unions, and others*

Sir, According to the British Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, discussions at the Asia-Europe ministerial meeting in Singapore on February 15 "reflected the seriousness" of the deteriorating human-rights situation in Burma.

Why then does the international community, the EU included, fail to take even limited punitive action against Burma's ruling military dictatorship?

Burma looks set to enjoy a welcome into the Association of South East Asian Nations this year, whilst the EU appears to be dragging its heels over the Commission's recommendation on December 18 that it withdraw preferential market access for Burmese industrial goods because of Burma's systematic use of forced labour, including child labour.

Approval of the proposal by EU foreign ministers was expected at the General Affairs Council meeting on February 24. The vote has now been postponed until March 24 at the earliest.

Withdrawal of trade privileges is a vital first step, for which there can be no acceptable delay. We urge the EU to send this clear message to Burma's ruling generals on the need for urgent reform.

Yours truly,
BILL JORDAN
(General Secretary, ICFTU),
GLENYS KINNOCK,
DENIS MacSHANE,
YVETTE MAHON
(Co-ordinator),
The Burma Action Group UK,
Collins Studios,
Collins Yard, Islington Green, N1.
February 26.

Financing litigation

From Mr Rhory Robertson

Sir, Anthony Scrivener's condemnation of the *Daily Mail* for labelling three young men as the murderers of Stephen Lawrence (Law, February 25) concludes with the interesting but unlawful proposition that if newspapers are really concerned with justice they should assist the relatives of the murder victim to start civil proceedings for damages.

It is still part of our common law that, save in exceptional circumstances, a third party may not give financial assistance to a litigant where that party has no legitimate interest in the proceedings. It would be hard, if not impossible, for a newspaper to claim that financing civil proceedings on behalf of the Lawrence family amounted to a legitimate interest.

Litigation for most of us is very expensive. It is beyond the means of many people who do not qualify for legal aid, leaving a huge number of people who are denied access to justice.

The Law Society has not conducted research on these disenfranchised litigants. It should do so. Surely today there are no good reasons why a litigant is prevented from coming to an arrangements with a third party to assist in the financing of litigation. Indeed many of us are in favour of promoting a scheme whereby the investor takes a share of the damages. If all parties are properly and independently advised, why shouldn't this be allowed? It would at least give an opportunity of justice to those who presently cannot afford it.

Yours sincerely,
RHORY ROBERTSON
(Solicitor),
Swepstone Walsh,
9 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
February 28.

Televised theatre

*From the Head of the
Theatre Museum*

Sir, The recording of live theatre performances for broadcast on television, either in front of an audience or in a studio, is an issue raised in two recent articles: James Christopher's "Performing small miracles" (Arts, February 24) and today's excellent interview with Sam Mendes by Valerie Grove.

Valerie Grove also referred to recordings made in the US for posterity (actually for the Theater on Film & Tape at the New York Public Library, not for the Museum of Modern Art). Britain's National Video Archive of Stage Performance, established by the Theatre Museum in 1993, has a similar aim of preserving the best of drama, dance and opera and has already recorded over 60 productions for research and educational use.

James Christopher, on watching the BBC2's *Company*, taped at the Donmar, feels that recording theatre for television "merely reminds you how artificial theatre is". This may be because he was watching a hybrid creature — recorded over two nights in front of an invited audience, using six cameras and radio microphones. However, we believe that by using acoustic microphones and fewer cameras concealed among an audience — visible, audible and whose response clearly affects the pace and intensity of a performance — the Theatre Museum more authentically reflects the original theatrical event. Of course, we are not recording for television.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BENTON,
Head, Theatre Museum,
1e Tavistock Street, WC2.
February 28.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Bishop's moves

From the Reverend Andrew de Berry

Sir, Is it not ironic that the day after the Bishop of Birmingham publicly urged a black woman priest, the Reverend Eve Pitts, to quit her post as vicar, he announces his engagement to be married to a divorcée (reports, March 3 and 4)?

In choosing to marry a divorcée the bishop is involving himself in an action which, were he contemplating entering the Church as an ordinand, would until recently have debarred him from admission to holy orders. Yet he requests the resignation of Mrs Pitts, despite having acknowledged her as "a talented pastor".

Yours respectfully,
ANDREW de BERRY,
The Vicarage,
Southwell Road,
Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire.
March 4.

Flying tackle

From Mr William Wright

Sir, The Reverend Julian Sullivan offers the peregrine as a more suitable bird name for Asda's rival to the Penguin biscuit (letter, March 3).

I feel sure that Penguin's lawyers would feel that the cuckoo's behaviour make it a far more appropriate beast.

Yours faithfully,
BILL WRIGHT,
5 Annington Road, East Finchley, N2.
March 3.

Fighting days

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, It was a brilliant journalistic coup on your part to report yesterday the fight between two Eton boys, which was conducted over 60 rounds and lasted two hours while the contestants and the many Etonians who watched them drank large quantities of brandy; the proceedings ending only when the smaller of the two contestants, aged 15, dropped down dead.

It was no less of a coup to report the events which took place at the same time, when a Harrow tradesman sought protection from magistrates from 150 boys of Harrow School, who had already demolished part of his home and threatened to murder him and his son because he had complained to the headmaster.

It is true that these happenings occurred 172 years ago, but ought you to have tucked them away in small print under the heading "On This Day?" Ought they not to have been given suitable prominence alongside the latest pronouncement on law and order by Mr Michael Howard or his Dolly-like clone, Mr Jack Straw?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
Flat 2, Pencarrow,
The Avenue, Sherborne, Dorset.
March 4.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 4: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

March 4: The Prince Edward, Trustee, this morning held a Meeting of the Trustees' Working Committee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation at Buckingham Palace.

March 4: The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this morning visited Simon Carter, Quadrant Arcade, Regent Street, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Animal Health Trust, this afternoon attended a Corporate Fellowship Scheme Luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, later visited Ritva Kariniemi, Devonshire Mews, London W4.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 4: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 4: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Parkinson's Disease Society, this morning visited the Headquarters at 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception in aid of Marriage Care at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street, London EC2.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 4: Princess Alexandra this afternoon attended a Service of Thanksgiving and Re-dedication for the Centenary of the King's Fund in St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London WC2.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will open the new Edinburgh Healthcare NHS Trust's Care of the Elderly unit at Ferryfield House, Edinburgh, at 11.00; and as Patron of the Moredun Foundation, will preside at the Retiral Lecture at Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik, at 12.30. Later, as President of the The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend an English Symphony Orchestra concert by courtesy of Severn Trent at St James's Palace at 7.00.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the Automobile Association, will attend a committee meeting at Norfolk House, Basingstoke, at 9.50am.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron of Home-Start, will visit the Kingston scheme, 132 Kingston Road, New Malden, at 2.30.

Receptions

Nene College
Mr Michael Morris, Deputy Speaker, was the host at a reception held last night at the House of Commons on behalf of Dr S. Martin Gaskell, Director of Nene College, Northampton, and Chairman of the Standing Conference.

Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra
Mr Robin Hay, Chairman of the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra, gave a reception last night at the Barbican Centre before the orchestra's 25th anniversary concert.

Lecture

Glaziers' Company
Ms Wendy Evans delivered the annual lecture of the Glaziers' Company last night at Glaziers' Hall. Later, Mr Malcolm Tosh, Master, accompanied by the Wardens, received liverymen and their guests at a reception and supper.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prizewinners were announced yesterday:

£100,000: 62AZ 312752, winner has a holding of £19,971 and comes from Cumbria; 60GF 732578, £5,500, West Midlands; 12CZ 863341, £20,000, West Yorkshire; 20VB 279333, £1,082, Surrey.

£50,000: 5QK 739151, £85, Nottinghamshire; 15JK 869885, £10,000, Derbyshire; 5TP 922672, £7,651, Oxfordshire; 57FL 755552, £10,200, Buckinghamshire; 39VN 160728, £19,700, Southwark, south London; 62LK 625239, £17,890, East Sussex; 14YK 613008, £15,446, Lancashire; 38PZ 846455, £14,100, Warwickshire; 27WL 191937, £3,018, Hampshire.

£25,000: 24VP 420705, £11,045, West Midlands; 48DB 216017, £19,829, Hertfordshire; 34PS 534088, £19,999, Oxfordshire; 27EN 726175, £3,400, West Yorkshire; 32JW 524288, £20,000, Merton, London; 10AB 480754, £2,005, Avon; 40QN 332751, £10,060, Gwent; 40NP 813728, £11,318, Surrey; 20TF 046436, £1,030, Staffordshire; 39LT 913275, £20,000, Dorset; 51QS 333830, £10,000; Staffordshire; 63LP 989457, £20,000, Hampshire; 26YB 742467, £2,223, Kent; 15NP 165265, £20,000, Camden, London; 25MF 383459, £20,000, Surrey; 36KL 249991, £12,650, Devon.

Luncheon

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Mr Stephen Day, MP, and Mr Dennis Turner, MP, Joint Vice-Chairmen of the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, were the hosts at a luncheon given by the executive committee at the House of Commons yesterday to welcome Commonwealth Parliamentarians attending the 1997 seminar at Westminster.

Today's birthdays

The Hon David Astor, CH, 85; Lady Elizabeth Basset, Extra Woman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 89; the Right Rev Thomas Butler, Bishop of Leicester, 57; Admiral Sir Simon Cassels, 69; the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, 70.

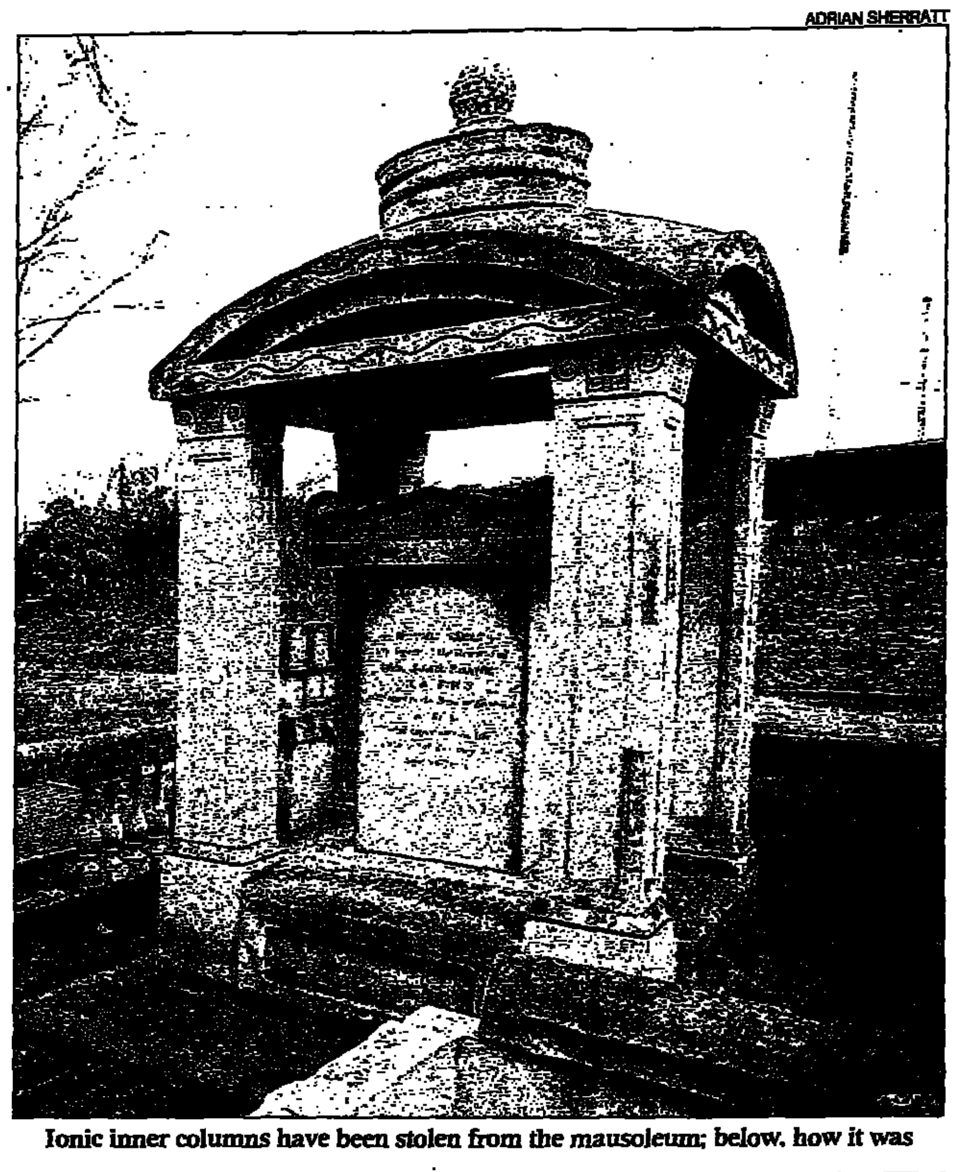
Mr Jim Dowd, MP, 46; Earl Grey, 58; Mr Anthony Hedges, composer, 66; Archbishop Bruno Heim, former Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 86; Mr R.A.E. Herbert, former president, Royal Horticultural Society, 63; Mr Richard Hickox, conductor, 49; Mrs Ann Longley, Head Mistress, Roedean School, 55; Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, KT, 71; Miss Elspeth March, actress, 86; Sir Derek Mitchell, civil servant, 75; Miss Elaine Paige, singer, 45; Sir Jack Rumbold, former president, Industrial Tribunals, 77; Mr R. Sandler, chief executive officer, Lloyd's, 45; Mr Barry Tuckwell, horn soloist and conductor, 66; Mr Des Wilson, former co-chairman, Campaign for Freedom of Information, 56.

Vandals attack tomb that inspired phone box design

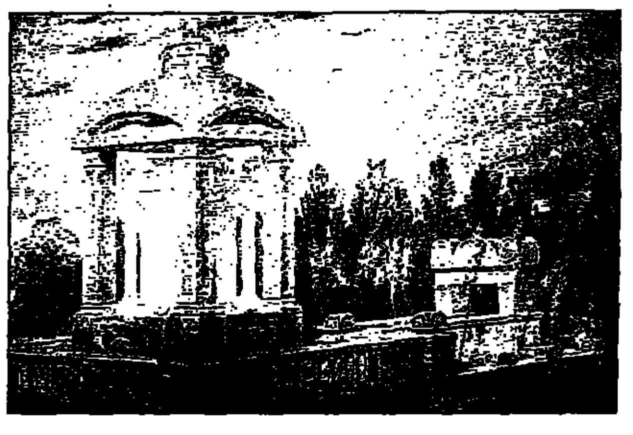
Masterpiece by Sir John Soane is desecrated

By Dalya Alberge
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Ionic inner columns have been stolen from the mausoleum; below, how it was



A GEM of architectural design, the 1816 marble mausoleum of Sir John Soane, one of Britain's greatest architects, has been vandalised. Thieves entered the north London churchyard near St Pancras station, stole slender Ionic columns that were an integral part of the design and destroyed some of the original balustrading.

The mausoleum with its distinctive curved canopy supported on four Ionic columns is one of Soane's most ravishing designs. Such is its importance, it is believed to be one of only two Grade I listed tombs in London. Its distinctive shape is now well known as it inspired Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's original telephone box of the 1920s.

"It's a masterpiece," said Christopher Woodward, assistant curator of the Sir John Soane's Museum, which is based in the 1812 house that Soane designed and left to the nation at his death in 1837. He said that the stolen columns — each about a metre high — are not immediately identifiable as Soane's work and could therefore be sold relatively easily.

Soane's best known public commissions were the Bank of England, on which he worked between 1788 and 1833 but which was almost entirely rebuilt in the 1920s; additions to the Houses of Parliament and government offices on Whitehall, destroyed either by fire or the Victorians, who had different tastes; and the Dulwich Picture Gallery, whose original 1812 design survives.

For Soane, however, the mausoleum was a perfect vehicle for letting his Romantic imagination run wild: its lines did not have to be interrupted by any practical requirements such as plumbing or lighting.

Stefan Buzas, an architect and trustee of the Soane Monuments Trust, noted how so little of Soane's public work has survived that the mausoleum is "all the more valuable". He said: "This is not vandalism. This is criminal theft. It's likely to have been stolen to order." The case shows how thieves are pinpointing churchyards.

Two years ago the Soane Monuments Trust raised £45,000 to repair the mausoleum. English Heritage was among those who responded to an appeal for help.

Julian Harrap, the architect who restored the monument, said: "It had been looking beautiful. This leads us to be even more disappointed that Soane's monument, which is intended to encapsulate his life after death, should have been assaulted in this brutalising way. It's the destruction of the original fabric that is so distressing."

The Soane's Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields has 50 drawings in which Soane worked out the design, preparing it for his wife who died in 1815; Soane himself was buried there in 1837.

Dinners

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Mr Ian Caldwell, President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was in the chair at a dinner held last night at 1 Lambeth High Street. Baroness Robson of Kiddington also spoke. Mr Gordon Oakes, MP, Sir John Hannam, MP, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, the President of the College of Optometrists, the President of the Institute of Health Service Management and the Chairman of NAHAT were among the guests.

Royal Society of St George
The High Commissioner for New Zealand was the guest of honour at a dinner of the Westminster branch of the Royal Society of St George held last night at New Zealand House. The Lord Mayor of Westminster, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, was the guest speaker. Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, president, and Mr Robert M Sewell, chairman, also spoke.

London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates
Lady French, Governor of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, and Mr John McCready, Deputy Director, received the guests at the annual Law Faculty dinner held last night at Mecklenburgh Square. Lord Goff of Chieveley, FBA, was the guest speaker.

RAF Club Dining Society
Mr Rupert Allason, MP, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the RAF Club Dining Society held at the club on Monday.

University news

Oxford
Professor Robert John Weston Evans, Fellow of Brasenose College, to be Regius Professor of Modern History in succession to Professor Sir John Elliott.

Inns of Court School of Law

1996-97 Bar Vocational Course Early Resits: Pass List
In alphabetical order
Result: competent

H N Adimora Gore (M), C H Aherne (L), U Akram (L), M A Ali (L), W C Amako (L), M J Anderson (L), S L Ashcroft (I), J S Balfour (I), B S Banga (I), D M Best (L), I Bonage (L), M S Buckland (L), H B Caney (L), W A Cook (M), N J Cooper (M), M A Culling (G), F H Currie (G), R B Day (M), C L De Azevedo (I), J E Deans (L), C M Donnelly (M), T D Dooley (I), B S Duncanson (G), P R Ellicott (M), K Farmer (I), D C Fountain (M), R D Freeland (G), E T Fung (L), J Gandolfi (L), M C Gilks (L), S G Goh (G), F Goldsbrough (I), D J Goodyear (M), D Griffiths (G), D H Griffiths (G), S Haji (M), T M Harrington (G), P A Harshaw (L), A C Hazell (M), W M Healing (G), A M Healy (L), J R Hirst (M), L A Husain (L), R K Inyundo (G), A A Jafar (L), F Karim (I), K Karim (L), E A Kerr (L), S J Kirsop (I), M Klein (L), N J Lane (G), Z V Lane-Smith (M), M E Latter (G), J Leasor (L), J F Lennon (L), M K Lewin (L), A P MacLaren (L), I L Mackenzie (G), S P Maggs (L), A D Maitra (G), J T Maugham (M), A Meah (G), S J Midgley (G), D M Mills (I), L J Murray (L), H J Parry (I), T Pomeroy (L), M K Ranauta (G), J E Rayne (G), C J Rendell-Reynolds (L), L Rohit (G), P SaintJohn-Ralston (G), D S Sanders (M), J S Scott (M), S Shanmugaguru (G), E B Simmons (G), M S Sinha (G), D A Siohn (I), D M Smith (M), H E Staley (L), A M Stone (L), P J Taggart (G), S S Thapa (M), J D Upton (M), J Vallejo (M), J C Van Den Broek (M), G D Warnsby (L), C H Whitehead (L), C D Wood (L), A M Wooding (G), D Wooldridge (G), L J Yeats (M), P N Young (L), S Zaki (L).

Conversion Course Candidate
Result: competent
O T Onafowokan (M).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.C.M. Alty and Miss F.F. Johnson
The engagement is announced between James, only son of the late Christopher Alty and of Janet Alty, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, and Fiona, only daughter of Mrs Sheila Johnson, of Allesley Village, West Midlands.

Mr J.R.M. Boret and Miss S.J. Williamson
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Boret, of The Mardy, Llandenny, and Samantha, only daughter of Mr Patrick Williamson, of Paphos, Cyprus, and Mrs Paula Williamson, of Dulwich, London.

Mr S.A. Burns and Miss C.C.W. Hancox
The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Mrs Rosemary Burns, of Eton, Berkshire, and the late Mr Ian Burns, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hancox, of Offham, Kent.

Mr E.W.G. Collis and Miss E.L. Bhar
The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robin Collis, of Plaistow, West Sussex, and Louise, daughter of Mr Harmanjit Bhar, of Lowes Island, Virginia, and Mrs Caroline Bhar, of London.

Mr S.R.W. Davies and Miss C.E. Ashley
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs W. Davies, of Fittleworth, West Sussex, and Catherine, daughter of Mr B. Ashley and Mrs V. Jeans-Jakobsson, of Marlborough, Wiltshire.

Mr S.M.C. Dowdy and Miss R.F. Woods
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Dowdy, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Rachel, eldest daughter of His Honour and Mrs Brian Woods, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Mr H.C. Grinling and Miss C.A. Chapman
The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Mr and Mrs C.H. Grinling, of Hastings, East Sussex, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.R. Chapman, of Madrid, Spain.

Mr W.J. Hague, MP, and Miss Ff.Ll. Jenkins
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Hague, of Rotherham, Yorkshire, and Ffion, daughter of Mr and Mrs Emyr Jenkins, of Cardiff.

Mr J.F. Harwood and Miss S.J. Bloxham
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Dr H.F. Harwood and the late Mrs Harwood, of Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, and Sarah, only daughter of Mrs S. Bloxham and the late Mr T.R. Bloxham, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr D.W.E. Johnstone and Miss L.K. Astill
The engagement is announced between Dominic, elder son of Mrs Margaret Johnstone, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and Mr Keith Johnstone, and Lucy, only daughter of the late Mr Timothy Preston Astill, OBE, LLB, FRPharmS, and of Mrs Ingrid Astill, also of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr E.P. Kearns and Miss N.J. Morphet
The engagement is announced between Edmund, younger son of Dr J.L. and Dr B. Kearns, of Ealing, London, and Natalie Jane, younger daughter of Mr David Morphet, of Launceston, Cornwall, and Mrs Ingrid Morphet, of Upper Norwood, London.

Mr S.D.W. Leather and Miss C.T. Burton
The engagement is announced between Simon David William, only son of Mr and Mrs D.M. Leather, of Thorpe Langton, Leicestershire, and Clare Theresa, daughter of the late Virginia Burton and of Mr and Mrs M.J. Burton, of Blackheath.

Mr J.S. Long and Mrs R.H. Bulteel
The engagement is announced between John Stuart Long, recently of Edinburgh, and Jane, widow of Richard Bulteel, of Hawling, Gloucestershire.

Mr A.R. Vaughan-Martin and Miss F.J. Munro
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Martin, of Hounslow, Middlesex, and Fiona, daughter of Dr and Mrs Donald Munro, of Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Water and Environmental Management

Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) Diploma 1996

The pass list for the 21 successful candidates for the November 1996 diploma examination is as follows:

Alison Berry, Amanda Bird, Janet Bone, Philip Cullum, Isabelle Davasse, Albert Gilbert, Thomas Grady, Carl Harrop, Toni Holtby, Philip Horrell, Jeffrey Izzard, James Hunter, Nicola Keegan, Susan Lewis, Colin Lindsay, Gerrard McCollum, Lee Robinson, David Stewart, Jon Swift, Peter Willders, Perry Woolner.

Latest wills

Dame Jean Lancaster, Director Woman's Royal Naval Service, 1961-64, of Blundellsands, Merseyside, left estate valued at £57,197 net.

She left £500 to both the WRNS Benevolent Trust and the Burrswood International Fellowship.

Lady Hodson, of Dinder, Wells, Somerset, left estate valued at £13,959 net.

Ian Joicey **Dickinson**, of Riding Mill, Northumberland, left estate valued at £1,782,857 net.

Paviors' Company

The following have been installed officers for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr J.W.A. Clugston; Upper Warden, Mr J.H. Lelliott; Renter Warden, Mr P.D.M. Gell.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: David Bruce, David II, King of Scotland reigned 1329-71, Dunfermline, 1324; Gerhardus Mercator, cartographer, Rupelmonde, Belgium, 1512; William Oughtred, mathematician and pioneer of the slide rule, Eton, 1574; Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, explorer and founder of the city of Detroit, Les Laumets, France, 1658; William Henry Beveridge, 1st Baron Beveridge, economist, Rangpur, India, 1879.

DEATHS: Antonio Correggio, painter, Correggio, Italy, 1534; Thomas Arne, composer, London, 1778; Flora Macdonald, Jacobite, Skye, 1790; Franz Mesmer, physician and pioneer of hypnotism, Miersburg, Austria, 1815; Pierre Simon, Marquis de Laplace, astronomer, 1827; Count Alessandro Volta, physicist, Como, 1827; Sir Henry Rawlinson, orientalist, London, 1895; Edgar Lee Masters, poet and novelist, Philadelphia, 1950; Sergei Prokofiev, composer, Moscow, 1953; Joseph Stalin, Soviet leader, Moscow, 1953; Anna Akhmatova, poet, Moscow, 1966; Tito Gobbi, baritone, Rome, 1984.

British troops opened fire on a civilian crowd in Boston, Massachusetts, killing five people, in what was dubbed "The Boston Massacre", 1770.

Covent Garden Theatre was destroyed by fire, 1856.

The Nazis won almost half the seats in the German general elections, 1933.

The Spitfire made its first flight from Eastleigh aerodrome, Southampton, 1936.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

You are yourself the strength in which they glory; through your favour we hold our heads high. *Psalm 89 : 17*

BIRTHS

BEALE - On February 15th, to Louisa (née Bear-Shaw) and Andrew, a daughter, Polly Theodora, a sister for Roseanna and Freddie.

BLÜMMERS - On March 3rd, to Jane (née Isbister) and Gerhard, a son, Sebastian St. Clair Alexander.

BRAITHWAITE-EXLEY - On March 1st, to Madeleine and Marcus, a son, Alexander Marcus.

BURGE - On 25th February 1997, to Nicholas and Arabella (née Spence), a daughter, Lily Victoria.

COLEMAN - On February 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Margot (née Fitzpatrick) and Jonathan, a beautiful daughter, Emily Jane - a sister for Oscar.

DASHWOOD - On February 24th 1997, in Cape Town, to Joanna Dashwood and Dean Hutchinson, a son, Jason Oliver.

DE MONTFORT - On 26th February in Johannesburg, to Jenny (née Bell) and Roger, a daughter, Clara Averina, a sister for Louis.

DIKKERS - On January 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Deborah Durkin and Arend Dikkers, a daughter, Laetitia Cornelia, a sister for Max and Josie.

FUNK - On March 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Sheryl (née Jassen) and Peter, a daughter, Hannah Ruth.

GOLDSMITH - On March 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Marlene and Peter, a daughter, Jade Bettina.

LOVIBOND - On February 27th, to Caroline (née Fielding) and Charles, a son, Harry Locke.

OGILVIE - On 3rd March, to Marianne (née Squair) and John, a son, Dan, a brother for Freddy.

PARKER - On March 3rd, to Laurie and Tim, a son, Oscar James Hampden.

PUMPHREY - On 3rd March, to Juliet (née Blackett) and Andrew, a son, a brother for Kate.

BIRTHS

SCHNEIDERMAN - On February 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Juliette (née Lichtig) and Marc, a son, Noah.

YATES - On February 24th 1997, to Rose (née Middleton) and Andrew, a son, Thomas. Always remembering Arthur John.

DEATHS

AKANDE - Eniola Oluyemisi on February 22nd, 1997, at The Lister Hospital, Chelsea Bridge Road. Funeral Service at St John the Evangelist Church, Hyde Park Crescent, W2. Saturday March 8th at 10am, followed by interment at Kensal Green Cemetery 12 noon. Donations in lieu of flowers if desired to Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o J.H. Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove, London, W2 4UL.

AYRE - Mary Elizabeth (Molly) on February 26th, recently a resident of Fairfield, Oxford. Much loved aunt of Anne Ayre (Newcastle), Phillipa, Marian, Jean and Barbara (New Zealand) and cousin of Liz Wooldridge (Wallingford) and John Hocking (Kidmore End). A service will be held at St Michael and All Angels Church, Lonsdale Road, Summertown, Oxford on Thursday 13th March at 1.30pm. Messages to Mrs Anderson, 111 Victoria Road, Oxford.

BAKER-CRESSWELL - Addison Joe, Captain R.N. of Bamburgh. Dear husband of Rona, peacefully at home on 4th March aged 96. Funeral at 2 pm on Monday 10th March at St Aidan's Church, Bamburgh, Northumberland.

BUIST - Charles. On 1st March 1997 at The Royal Infirmary Edinburgh, Charles, loving husband of Chris, dear father to the late Valerie and Ian. Much loved Dada of Sarah, James and Christopher. Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Pentland Chapel on Friday 7th March at 9.15 am. Family flowers only please. Donations may be sent to British Heart Foundation, 45A Moray Place, Edinburgh EH3, would be appreciated.

DEATHS

BRIDGEWATER - Thornton Howard (Tony) on 28th February aged 88 years, after a long illness bravely borne. Much loved father of Anthony and grandfather of Alexander, Virginia and Oliver. Funeral Service at St Anne's Church, Kew Green on Monday 10th March at 11.30 am, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only please but any donations at his request to the R.N.L.I., c/o Fredk W. Paine, Funeral Directors, 182 High Street, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4ES.

CHAPPELL - Josephine Mary (née Price), aged 81, peacefully at Cheviot Nursing Home, Colchester, on March 3rd. Widow of Alan Kingsley Chappell, much loved mother of Jane and Sarah.

CHELMER - Eric Baron Chelmer of Margaretting, beloved husband of Enid and father of Robin, peacefully after a long illness, on 3rd March 1997, aged 82. Private funeral. Details of a Memorial Service will be announced later.

CRANE - On March 1st Marjorie aged 88 of Sway, Hants, after a long illness. Youngest daughter of George and Ethel Crane, sometime of Argentina. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Sway Parish Church on Tuesday, March 11th at 3 pm. Family flowers only please, if wished donations for R.S.P.C.A. c/o Diamond and Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, SO41 9DN.

DAKERS - On 3rd March 1997, Elisabeth, beloved wife of Lionel Dakers and mother of Rachel Jones, Mary Newman, Juliet Dessain and Felicity Hill. Dearly loved grandmother of eleven. Funeral Requiem, Salisbury Cathedral, Friday 14th March at 12 noon. No flowers by her request, but donations to the Salisbury Cathedral Fabric Fund, c/o 6, The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2EF.

DAWSON-SHEPHERD (JOHNS) - Margaret Kathleen on 28th February. Margaret K Johns was the first female film producer in the UK. Widow of Ian, much loved mother of Jennifer, Judith and Andrea, and stepmother of Rosemary, Anne, Sarah and Deborah. Funeral Service St Winefride's, Kew, 11.30 am, Thursday 13th March. Donations to Mother & Baby Clinic Project, The Little Foundation, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

DINGLEY - Florence Ruth, M.A., M.D., on 2nd March peacefully at Windlesham Manor residential home, aged 100, widow of Doctor Jack, mother of Janet, Bridget and Naomi. Funeral 12.30 pm Friday 21st March at Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to R.N.I.B. Enquiries to Paul Bysouth 01892 656000.

EPSTEIN - Liliana Loubov, dearly loved mother of Monica and Isabella, died suddenly in London on March 3rd 1997. She will be deeply missed. Funeral Service at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, London NW10 on Thursday 6th March at 2.30 pm.

GOFF - Rosemary Anne suddenly on Saturday 1st March 1997. Wife of the late Bruce Goff M.C., formerly Dyer (née Wentworth-Fitzwilliam). Beloved mother of Michael, Annie and Becca. Adored grandmother and great-grandmother. Treasured godmother and friend. Family funeral on Saturday 8th March 11 am at St Bartholomew's, Egdean, near Fittleworth, West Sussex, followed by private cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Wednesday 9th April 2 pm at St Bartholomew's, Egdean. No mourning, if desired cut flowers only.

HARDIE - The Ven. A.G. (Bill) Hardie died peacefully at Westcliffe House, Rothbury, Northumberland, on 28th February, aged 88 years. Much loved and missed. Funeral Service at Alwinton Church on Monday March 10th at 2 pm.

HAYES - Vicky on 3rd March peacefully after an inspirational and courageous fight. Loving wife of Peter and devoted mother to Catherine, Edward and Oliver. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church, Salehurst, Robertsbridge, all welcome, March 22nd at 11am. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund c/o C. Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, E. Sussex, (01435) 882219.

HOGG - On March 3rd 1997 Henry Edward Hogg at home. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired, to The National Asthma Campaign or The Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. Enquiries to Ashton Brookes F/D, Churchside, Church Street, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4DB, tel: (0161) 928-7816.

IRVING - On 3rd March 1997 Jock aged 84 years of Kirkbride, Cumbria. A greatly loved husband of the late Louisa, a beloved father of John, Richard and Charles, also a dear grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service to be held at St Bride's Church, Kirkbride, on Thursday 6th March at 12.45 pm, followed by interment in the churchyard. Friends please accept this intimation. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to be divided between the Parish Church and the Parish Surgery. Enquiries to Walker's Funeral Directors, Carlisle, tel: (01228) 515650.

JOHNSTONE - George Bernard March 3rd 1997 aged 92 years. Dear husband of Gisela and loving father of Patricia, father-in-law of Martin and dear grandfather of Emma and Lisa. All enquiries please to the Pearson-Collinson Funeral Service, Liverpool, (0151) 722-1514.

KING - Manette (née de Mauduit) died on February 20th 1997 at her home in Cannes, France. Widow of Jack King, MC, and of Jack Herring, MC. Interment of ashes in England to be announced later.

LIEDEKERKE - Count Philippe de. On 20th February in Brussels, husband of Esther Molloy; father of James, Tony and Priscilla Verhaeghe. Ave d'Orbaix 55, Brussels 1180.

LINDELL - Aubrey Oscar Edgar died peacefully at home on Sunday 2nd March in his 80th year after a long illness bravely borne. Survived by his devoted wife Eileen, his sons Peter, Stuart and Anthony. Adored by his sister Sylvia, daughters-in-law Janet and Margaret and grandpa to Elizabeth and Stephen. Funeral and Holy Eucharist at 12 noon on Tuesday 11th March at St Thomas's Church, Oakwood, London N14, followed by committal at Enfield Crematorium. Donations, if desired, to The Stroke Association or Cancer Research c/o Seaward & Sons, 448 Green Lanes, London N13 5XD.

LYALL-WILSON - On 2nd March 1997 peacefully in Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford. Ina, widow of Leslie, dearly loved mother of Angus and Jennie, grandmother of Rohan, Dennis, Danese and Veen and sister of Roy. Funeral Service at Holmbury St Mary Church on Monday 10th March at 11 am. Flowers or donations for the Stroke Association may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking RH4 2ES.

MACSWINEY - Major John Francis (Sean) Royal Signals (ret'd), suddenly at home on 1st March 1997 aged 81 years. Much missed by his children Gavan, Nuala and Fiona and his grandchildren. Funeral at Our Lady of the Rosary and Holy Rood, Botley, Oxford, at 2 pm on Friday 7th March. Requiescat In Pace.

MATTHEWS - It was incorrectly recorded that Andrew Edward Bertie Matthews died on 11th February 1997. Mr Matthews died on 10th February 1997.

POUNCEY - Kathleen Beeton (Kay), died peacefully on March 1st, 1997, at Ripplesside, Bexhill-on-Sea, aged 85. Beloved mother of Tony, Penny, Robin, Christopher and Pamela, and Granny to James, Kate, Charlotte and Isabelle. Funeral 2.45 pm Wednesday 12th March at St Barnabas Church, Bexhill, followed by private family cremation. An earlier Communion Service will be held at 10 am. Flowers or donations to the (Church of England) Children's Society may be sent to Mummery, 31 Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1AH.

PRATT - On March 3rd 1997 peacefully at his home in Shottisham. David Clifford aged 67 years. Much loved husband of Jane and a dearly loved father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church, Shottisham, on Monday March 10th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please may be sent to G.W. Smith (Alderton) Ltd. Funeral Directors, 50 The Street, Alderton, IP12 3BL.

ROLLASON - Barbara on March 3rd 1997 peacefully at home aged 95 years. Much loved by her family and her many friends. Funeral Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Wednesday March 12th at 1.20pm. All enquiries to Linda Dawson tel: (01588) 673250.

ROWSELL - Berry on March 1st peacefully in Winchester Hospital. Funeral Service at Stoke Charity on Monday March 10th at 11.30 am followed by private cremation. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to a charity of your choice.

SCHREIBER - Irene (née Rácz) on 28th February 1997 aged 98 at home. Greatly loved by all her family and friends. Service at Putney Vale Crematorium on Monday 10th March at 11.30 am. No flowers please - donations instead to Save the Children Fund, Oxfam or RSPCA.

TATHAM - Christopher Meaburn died peacefully on Monday March 3rd 1997. Funeral on Wednesday March 12th at 12 noon at St Mary's Church, Chesham. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to any charity for the blind. All enquiries to Cooks Funeral Services (01494) 791359.

WAUD - On 2nd March 1997 peacefully in Winton Nursing Home, Vivienne in her 100th year. Daughter of the late Sir Francis and Lady Watson and a much loved mother of Christopher, Suzanne and April. Memorial Service at St Peter's Church, St Mary Bourne, Tuesday 11th March 1997 at 3 pm. Donations to R.U.K.B.A. may be sent c/o Camp Hopson & Co. Ltd. Funeral Directors, 6/12 Northbrook Street, Newbury, RG14 1DN, tel: (01635) 522210.

WIGNEY - John died 1st March 1997 at home in Basingstoke. Sadly missed by wife Jill and all his family. Enquiries to Stowells Funeral Service (01256) 321281.

WRIGHT - Brian Wheatley, peacefully on 2nd March 1997. Dearly beloved husband of Joyce, devoted father of Fiona, Heather and Philip, granddad to Morag and Gordon, father-in-law and friend to David. We all miss you.

YEO MARSH - Joan Priscilla (née Curtis Green) died peacefully at home on March 1st. Funeral at Waltham St Lawrence Parish Church at 2pm on Tuesday March 11th.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

GOULD - Joe. A service to celebrate the life of Joe Gould will take place in Eton College Chapel on Friday, 14th March at 2.30 pm.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

HAYWARD - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Joyce Helena Hayward OBE, FSA, will be held at the Church of St Laurence Jewry-next-Guildhall in the City of London on Tuesday March 25th at 3 pm and afterwards at the Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane.

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OBITUARIES

SIR MARTIN FURNIVAL JONES

Sir Martin Furnival Jones, CBE, Director-General of MI5 from 1965 to 1972, died on March 1 aged 84. He was born on May 7, 1912.

Martin Furnival Jones was head of MI5 at a time when Russian spies were not only supposed to be under everyone's bed but also in the Cabinet and in Parliament. It was a period of rampant paranoia, and Furnival Jones, though not a conspiracy theorist himself, had the job of sifting reality from wild rumour.

He was a quiet, shy, pipe-smoking birdwatching enthusiast who cared for the image of the Security Service under his leadership, while caring little for his personal image. Indeed, one of the benefits of being MI5 Director-General in the 1960s and 1970s was that he could remain an anonymous figure. He would not have relished the higher profile attached today to the head of the intelligence and security services.

During his term as director-general, the lengthy inquiries that had been held into the possible penetration of MI5 by the Russian Intelligence Service came to a head. The main suspicions of the investigators on the so-called Fluency Committee fell on Furnival Jones's immediate predecessor, Sir Roger Hollis.

It was a painful time for Furnival Jones. He was a friend of Hollis and was convinced of his innocence. However, he felt it was right to authorise a full investigation, for fear of being accused of a cover-up. The subsequent investigation found no evidence that Hollis had been a traitor.

Edward Martin Furnival Jones was born in High Barnet, a son of Edward Furnival Jones, one time President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. He was educated at Highgate School, from where he won an exhibition to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He read modern and medieval languages, and then law.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1937 and practised with the firm of Slaughter & May. On the outbreak of war, he joined the Army and was commissioned in the Intelligence Corps in 1940. The following year he was attached to MI5, serving in the War Office and later in the Counter-Intelligence Division of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF).

He was mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the United States Bronze Star for his work at SHAEF. He ended the war as a lieutenant-colonel and in 1946 he joined the permanent staff of the Security Service, where he remained until his retirement in 1972.

During the war he had developed a reputation for a penetrating mind. In the early years of his MI5 career, he worked in protective security; in 1958 he took charge of the counter-espionage branch. In 1963 he was appointed deputy director-general and succeeded Hollis at the head of MI5 in 1965. He was appointed CBE in 1957 and knighted in 1967.

As director-general, Furnival Jones ordered the secret investigation into allegations by Soviet and Czech defectors — notably, Anatoli Golitsyn and Josef Frolik — that the Wilson Government had been penetrated by the KGB in the late 1960s and early 1970s. However, no evidence was found of any Soviet penetration of the Labour hierarchy.

This investigation had no connection with the subsequent alleged dirty tricks campaign against the Labour leadership by extreme right-wing members of the Security Service and an alleged plot to overthrow the Wilson Government, involving a number of senior figures, mostly military, who feared that the country was lapsing into chaos. The press baron Cecil King was alleged to be the prime mover in a plan which apparently envisaged Lord Mountbatten's serving as the head of an alternative government once the Wilson administration had been ousted. Furnival Jones is thought to have warned the then Home Secretary, James Callaghan, giving him the names of those in the plot. Furnival Jones described them as "a pretty bouncy crew" but no action was taken against them.

His most significant achievement was the part he played in persuading the Government to expel 105 Russian intelligence officers posing as diplomats and trade officials, following the defection of Oleg Lyalin in 1971.

In 1972 Furnival Jones gave memorable evidence to a committee headed by Lord Franks which was reviewing Section 2 of the 1911 Official Secrets Act. He told the committee that Russian intelligence agents tried to recruit backbench MPs, hoping that they would become ministers. He urged the retention of Section 2 as a fallback in case proceedings under Section 1 — the espionage section — did not succeed.

He warned the committee that although he did not keep himself informed of the circle of acquaintances of every MP, he was aware that "very many Members of Parliament are in contact with very many intelligence officers".

Furnival Jones said intelligence officers were not all readily recognisable, although the Russians were easier to spot because he said they wore long coats and curiously shaped hats. He painted a picture of Russian agents attending political parties and drinking in Fleet Street bars, chatting up reporters to get titbits of information.

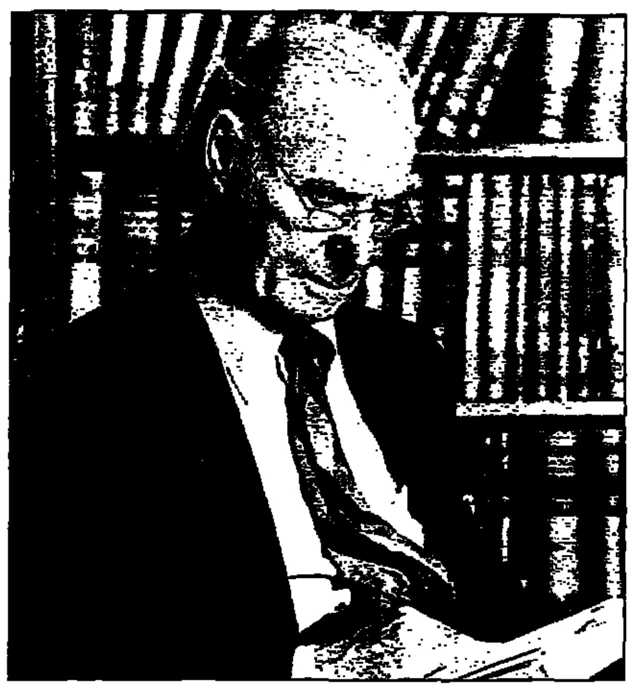
After retiring from MI5, he was signed up as a consultant by ICI to conduct a security review to protect the company from industrial espionage. Later he joined the panel of chairmen of the Civil Service Selection Board.

His favourite pastime was birdwatching. When he went on trips abroad as head of MI5, he used to get his staff to arrange birdwatching trips with an experienced local guide.

However, his health, which was never robust, deteriorated. He faced increasing physical disabilities courageously and with undiminished mental alertness.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and one daughter.

PROFESSOR FRANK LLEWELLYN-JONES



Frank Llewellyn-Jones, CBE, Principal of University College, Swansea, 1965-74, died on February 3 aged 89. He was born in Penrhiwceibr, Glamorgan, on September 30, 1907.

A CULTURED Welshman and a scientist of distinction, Frank Llewellyn-Jones was the pre-eminent authority on the physics of electrified gases and on electrical contact phenomena. On these subjects he published five textbooks and more than seventy original scientific papers, all written with great style and clarity.

From an early age he showed scientific leanings and a propensity for building electrical and mechanical devices — crystal wireless sets and model railways. From West Monmouth School he went to Merton College, Oxford, to read physics. He took a first in 1929 and was awarded a research scholarship. As Senior Demy at Magdalen and Demonstrator in the Wykeham Physics Department he researched with Sir John Townsend at the Clarendon Laboratory. Thus began his work on spectroscopy, ionisation and the electrical breakdown of gases.

These interests he continued on his appointment as a lecturer at University College, Swansea, in 1932. He also devoted himself to a heavy lecture load across the full spectrum of physics during one of its most exciting periods of upheaval and conceptual changes.

His war years were spent at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, concentrating on resolving problems of spark-plug ignition and erosion at magneto contacts in aircraft engines. At the time these were problems which seriously limited flying time between essential servicing.

This war work, and his studies of ionisation and plasma phenomena, were the foundations on which he built two internationally renowned research schools on his return to Swansea in 1945 as professor and head of the department of physics. Under his dynamic leadership the department became the focus of international collaboration with visiting scientists and scholars from all quarters.

He had a deep concern for students' wellbeing and was a marvellous teacher, via superb if somewhat haphazard lectures. He was quite unable to stick to lecture notes, however carefully prepared. He would cast them aside after a few words and launch into an extempore treatment of abstract topics which held his classes enthralled. Note-taking was impossible but they got the message.

He was Dean of Science, Vice-Principal and Principal at Swansea and was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, 1969-71. Among the many extra-academic offices he held, he was chief regional scientific adviser for civil defence in South Wales, part-time director of the South Wales group of British Steel and served on the Council for Wales and Monmouthshire, chairing its central advisory committee for education which was ahead of its time in pinpointing the shortage of graduates entering teaching.

Courteous and gentlemanly, Llewellyn-Jones was a sensitive and sometimes vulnerable person. He combined intellect with humanity. Direct and often impatient, he was ready to face unpopularity in support of what he considered right. He had the irritating habit of being right on major issues of principle and policy, his expression of which often made unwelcome news to the Establishment.

He was appointed CBE in 1965.

In retirement he found time to pursue his interests in the history of naval warfare, industrial archaeology, gardening (growing exquisite grapes), ornithology, his 1930s Talbot car and above all to indulge in his passion for railways and steam locomotives. He possessed a superb model railway which he largely built himself. He was a stout defender of the Central Wales Line, under threat of closure, and a thorn in the side of opponents of rail transport.

His first wife, Eileen, whom he married in 1938, and his daughter, Anne, predeceased him and he is survived by his son David, Professor of Physics at Leicester University, and his second wife, Gwendolen.

LORD CHELMER

Lord Chelmer, MC, TD, chairman of the national executive committee of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, 1957-65, died on March 3 aged 82. He was born on October 9, 1914.

AS CHAIRMAN of the executive committee and later as joint party treasurer Eric Edwards (from 1963, when he was made a life peer, Lord Chelmer) wielded considerable behind-the-scenes power in the Conservative Party for a number of years in the 1950s and 1960s. He was one of the most effective figures in the voluntary section of the party.

When Harold Macmillan resigned as Prime Minister in 1963, Chelmer was one of a small group who for a week played a key role until Lord Home (who immediately renounced his peerage to become Sir Alec Douglas-Home) was appointed Prime Minister. It was to be the last time a Tory leader emerged by what used to be known as "the customary processes of consultation" in the days before leadership elections.

Macmillan called for the views of MPs, peers and constituency associations to be brought to his hospital bed. Chelmer and Dame Margaret Shepherd, that year's chairman of the National Union, working independently of the other two groups as instructed, had charge of sounding out the views of the grassroots Tories in the constituencies.

They told Macmillan that the result was split down the middle. Rab Butler had won the country constituencies (virtually all Tory) and Quintin Hogg (who had abandoned his peerage too, in hopes of gaining the premiership) had taken the cities, towns and urban areas (mostly Labour and with a lot of marginals). They went on to explain that on a purely constituency count Hogg was well ahead as there were more urban than rural constituencies. The reception of the news was cool. This surprised Chelmer because, talking to Macmillan a short time earlier, he had had the distinct impression that he favoured Hogg to succeed him. Chelmer left the hospital feeling that some new plot was afoot.

He did not have long to wait. Next day he was telephoned by Sidney Cooke, secretary of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, to say that the party wanted him to go and see the Foreign Secretary, Lord Home. In the 1930s Home had suffered badly from spinal tuberculosis, and there were still anxieties about his health. Arriving at the Foreign Office, Chelmer had hardly time to put his query before Home told him that he had been to see his doctor that morning, that he had been given a clean bill of health and that he felt ready for any role the party wished him to fulfil. No more was said.

But, despite his central role in the events of 1963, Chelmer's main service to the party was as a money-raiser, in his 12 years as joint party treasurer. He had the gift of explaining to businessmen and industrialists why politics and good government were essential to their businesses.

With the help of the 1st Lord Poole, then deputy party chairman, he modernised the constituency network of contributions. Each constituency was given a quota of money to be sent to Central Office each year, based on the Tory vote at the last general election. The plan got off to a slow start, until Chelmer got the inspired notion that each constituency's quota — alongside what it had actually paid — should be printed in the annual party conference handbook. It always amused him, the day before conference opened, to watch journalists going carefully through the figures in order to locate the constituency of any prominent Cabinet minister that had only paid a part of its quota, or none at all. The trick worked wonders. Some constituencies, especially those with prominent MPs, started paying double or treble the amount of their quota.

Eric Cyril Boyd Edwards was educated at Felsted. He wanted to go to Cambridge, his ambition being a place in the Diplomatic Service. But his father and grandfather persuaded him to become a lawyer first. At London University he took an LLB, qualified as a solicitor, and joined the family firm. Weekends were spent learning to be a soldier with the Essex Yeomanry, or crewing on his father's ocean racer. The possibility of entry into the Diplomatic Service dropped out of sight. Within two years the country was at war.

During the war he served with the Essex Yeomanry and the Royal Artillery. He was on the beaches soon after D-Day, won a Military Cross and was a lieutenant-colonel at 30. Back in civilian life and the family law practice he kept up his connection with the Essex Yeomanry, becoming its commanding officer, 1945-46.

Edwards's father and grandfather had both been local councillors, sitting as Liberals. But in 1945, after the defeat of Winston Churchill, father and son both joined the Conservative Party.

Eric Edwards tried to become prospective Tory parliamentary candidate for Southend West. It was his one failure. But he was probably better suited to his various roles on the voluntary side of the party than to any Commons service he might have given. His contribution to the work of the National Union was far more than his official positions demanded. He was, for example, chairman of the committee which produced the Chelmer report of 1970-71, reforming and updating the selection processes for parliamentary candidates and streamlining constituency organisations.

Chelmer was also one of the first to foresee the loss of Conservative seats in Scotland and the need to do something about it. He went on tours to Scotland asking for closer ties with Central Office in constituency organisations, enabling such things as the channelling of money to Scottish constituencies. It did not make any headway. After being created a life peer in 1963, he attended the House of Lords for some thirty years without ever making a maiden speech. It had earlier become an unwritten rule that the party's treasurers should not speak in Parliament, to avoid inadvertently giving any impression that anything said could be connected with political fund-raising.

As well as practising as a lawyer for fifty years, Chelmer was chairman of several companies, including Provident Investment and Greycoat Estates. He always gave the impression of being unrushed, and he gave generously of his time to an array of activities that interested him, including the Musicians Benevolent Fund and the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust.

When he gave up ocean racing he sailed and raced more modestly off Burnham with a series of racing catamarans.

He is survived by his wife Enid, whom he married in 1939, and by his son.

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ON THIS DAY

March 5, 1927

RACING MOTORIST'S DEATH

The inquest on the body of Mr. Parry Thomas, who was killed when attempting to break the motoring speed "record" on Pendine Sands, was held yesterday. The Coroner, Dr. R Thomse, mentioned that he asked Mr. Thomas last year why he did not carry a companion or mechanic with him in the car. His answer was "One is enough at one time". That showed the pluck of the man. These attempts by brave men only showed that in 1927, the manhood of the British Empire was not dead.

Harold Pullen, one of Mr. Thomas's mechanics, said he was standing opposite the timing-box when the accident occurred. Mr. Thomas was going very well until about 500 yards beyond the tape of the measured mile. There he noticed the car swerve badly. In a cloud of smoke and dust it careered about three-quarters of a mile, finishing up facing the sea. The Coroner. - About what pace was he travelling? - It is difficult to say, but I should say it was the fastest I have ever seen him travel. It was checked officially as 179.5 miles per hour. He said that the motor car was thoroughly examined before the journey, and it was in as good a condition as a mechanic could leave it in.

Leslie Callaghan, an engineer from Shell-Mex, said that it took less than one minute to reach the car. When they arrived the car burst into flames. He considered that the off-side driving shank broke and must have struck Mr. Thomas on the head, killing him immediately. The rear wheel was torn off, causing the tail to tip up in the air. The car slithered upside down for some yards, righted itself and travelled for three or four hundred yards, and then the distorted near-side wheels made the car travel left-handed in a large circle, coming to rest facing the sea. After examining all possible parts he felt convinced that some foreign matter like a stone must have caused the driving-chain to be diverted from the sprocket. An independent engineer, who had examined the car, agreed that apart from the chain no other mechanism was responsible.

The Coroner returned a verdict that Mr. Parry Thomas died from injuries to the head as the result of an accident. He said he found nearly the whole of the skull severed from the base. Death must have been instantaneous. Mr. Thomas will be buried at Old Byfleet. The wrecked car was attached to an agricultural tractor, towed to a spot in the sand-dunes where a deep hole had been dug, and buried there.

"Babs", the crashed car, was exhumed from the dunes in 1969, restored, and is housed in the Industrial and Maritime Museum at Cardiff. The present land speed record, 633 mph, is held by Richard Noble.

One regulator would stop crossed wires

Walk down the corridors of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington DC and find yourself staring into the open-door hearing room. A mini-courtroom drama is in progress — a bench of quasi-judges, rapt audience, lawyers, all intent on the contest of the day: cable rates, radio and television licences, satellite broadcasts, dial-a-porn telephone lines.

Strong voices in Britain are calling for a counterpart to what the United States gave itself in 1934: a single agency to regulate telecommunications and broadcasting together. If Britain had an FCC, or Ofcom, as some would call it, our overlapping tangle of regulators could be eliminated. Oftel, the Independent Television Commission, the Radio Authority, the Broadcasting Standards Council (soon to be renamed commission), the radio branch of the Department of Trade and Industry — maybe even the BBC's Board of Governors. Trying to regulate through separate agencies what technology has brought together makes increasing nonsense. Questions like how to ensure that the main supplier of digital set-top boxes does not shut the door to other broadcasters, or should British Telecom be allowed to sell television entertainment to mass audiences down the telephone line, would be easier to tackle. In Washington, the FCC offers one-stop regulation for all of these. It is headed by five politically appointed commissioners, of whom no more than three can be from the same party. Reed Hundt, the Democratic chairman, is too clever to criticise another country's communications regulations. But he can see that the British approach is "very managed". "You think about which way you want to go and then decide the rules on how to get there. We wait and see where the players want to go. Who can say who's going to be successful?" In favour of the American way, he says, is the certainty that "all predictions are wrong".

BRENDA MADDOX

The FCC has learnt its pragmatism the hard way. During the 1970s and 1980s it practised "creative regulation", trying to guide the direction technology would take. The result, says Hundt, was a "colossal mistake". Cable television was overprotected, the national television networks were discouraged from investing in programme production, the telephone and computer industries, local and long-distance telephone services were forcibly kept apart.

Now all the effort is focused on lowering the regulatory barriers and allowing the technologies to converge — without discouraging competition and diversity. The increasing number of new media possibilities have allowed the FCC, prodded by Congress's recent Telecom Act, to permit ownership of radio and television stations in larger clusters. But the FCC still prides itself on some success in preventing excessive cross-media ownership.

Hundt, a communications lawyer, thinks the excitement about the entrance of The News Corporation (parent company of *The Times*) and Echo into domestic satellite television distribution was premature. "We still have to look at it," he says. The hopes of offering 500 channels by satellite, including local television, cuts across an FCC rule that no satellite service may broadcast local programmes into areas where these are available on cable or rooftop aerial.

As a Democrat, Hundt acknowledges that the marketplace approach does not serve all the television audience. His Republican predecessor, Mark Fowler, said memorably: "The public interest is the public's interest." In contrast, Reed points to children's television: "The marketplace will not serve kids because kids don't have any money."

Since January the FCC has imposed new rules to try to carry out Congress's mandate to improve children's television. US television stations must submit quarterly evidence of compliance. Yet any American attempt to regulate the content of what appears on TV inevitably runs up against the constitutional protection of free speech. Broadcasting, in this sense, is "speech". The only reason that it is not as free from regulation as the American press is that broadcasters need licences to use airwaves, a public resource. They therefore must submit to some governmental conditions in exchange for access to the air. But not many.

The FCC's new rules on children's programmes look pitifully weak. All they insist on is half an hour a week of a regularly scheduled programme of informational or educational content, to be shown between 7am and 10pm.

Can't the FCC take a more qualitative approach to raising standards? Hundt says no. All the commission can do is design numerical formulas and brandish the threat of removal of licence.

With technology moving so fast, the advantages of the FCC's approach are obvious. Yet it can do nothing to enliven the blandness of network television, spoilt by the frequency of commercial interruption and lack of variety. Last week when NBC showed *Schindler's List* without a commercial break, 63 million people watched it.

The inability to impose cultural values on broadcast television is one argument against a single British regulator for communications. The inevitability of the press being drawn into statutory regulation is another. But there is no excuse for not combining all other communications business under one official roof, especially if its technical sophistication is high and its doors are open.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

TV cooks up a storm

RARELY has the power of television been more clearly illustrated than in *Delia Smith's Red Nose Collection* cookery programme last month, when she was joined by the comedian Dawn French to make chocolate muffins. The BBC2 show triggered a run on the mini-muffin baking tray featured.

In Sainsbury's stores throughout the land, the trays started selling like, well... hot cakes. A supply that should have lasted six months has already sold out. Customer service lines have been so busy with calls for the baking trays that the powers-that-be have had to rush an advance order from the only manufacturer. Remaining baking trays, meanwhile, are being rationed among the stores to avoid outbreaks from frustrated would-be muffin-makers.

JASON LOWE

Dawn French and Delia Smith triggered a run

Sugar and Spice

WORKING with the Spice Girls won unexpected benefits for Jennifer Saunders, actress and mother of three daughters aged between five and 11. As part of this month's *Comic Relief* TV extravaganza, Saunders formed a lookalike band, called the Sugar Lumps, with Dawn French, Kathy Burke, Lulu and Llewella Gideon. The two bands teamed up last month up to make the official Comic Relief single, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, the proceeds of which will go to the charity.

Saunders says: "Despite all the amazing people I've worked with, working with the Spice Girls has finally earned me the respect of my children."

Judgment day

THE controversial former High Court judge James Pickles is to join News Bunny and topless-darts players on Live TV, possibly Britain's least-viewed but best-known cable station. The judge is to star in *Trial TV*, presiding over mock trials based on real-life cases.

The series features cases from all over the country, such as the Dartmoor villagers trying to prevent a Thai massage salon from opening.

The protagonists from each side will be invited to submit their case, and the judge will deliver his learned verdict. Pickles, who retired from the bench in 1991, says: "even though our courts are open to the public, relatively few people will ever have attended a trial." Unfortunately for Pickles, even fewer people are ever likely to watch Live TV.

Launch fling

BIZARRE, the new magazine about the world of the weird, has run into trouble even before going on sale. The inaugural issue was pulped after an article was found to be in contempt of court. So yesterday the magazine — the latest title from John Brown Publishing, which produces *Viz* — relaunched itself.

To mark the affair, an octopus-throwing competition took place in Battersea Park, south London. The creatures were dead before the first tentacle was flung, but the event incurred the wrath of animal rights groups. The RSPCA says: "Because they were dead, there was no cruelty, so there was nothing we could do. But it is in very bad taste and might encourage people to behave inappropriately with animals."

Octopus-throwing is apparently big among Canadian ice hockey fans who hurl the inky creatures onto the rink when their team wins.

● *GOOD news for the playwright Alan Bennett who recently denounced Classic FM listeners as "Saga louts".*

Saga, the over-50s travel firm, which spends around £400,000 a year with Classic, has withdrawn all advertising from the station after it jacked up its rates.

Saga director Tim Bull said: "Advertising on Classic is no longer cost-effective."

Morley silenced

ONE CRITIC was conspicuous by his absence when colleagues of the late *Daily Mail* critic Jack Tinker trod the boards at the London Palladium to celebrate the writer's life.

Sheridan Morley, who reviews shows for *The Spectator* and the *International Herald Tribune*, has the imposing physique that could dominate a stage and a voice to hit the back rows of the Drury Lane.

But he was not invited to take part. Could it be his application for Tinker's job was considered by some to follow rather too hard upon the diminutive scribe's death? Whatever the reason, Charles Osborne, who was formerly *The Daily Telegraph's* man in the stalls and who organised the tribute, says: "At the request of those close to Jack, it was decided *not* to ask Sheridan to take part."

Admen under fire

ADVERTISING

AS THE political temperature rises and a possible change of government looms, the Advertising Association has conducted a MORI survey of 100 anonymous MPs' views of the advertising industry and its work.

It seems that the industry still has serious image problems among more than 40 per cent of the Labour Party members surveyed. Among their objections are that advertising "does not work in the public interest", it "exploits markets", "distorts needs" and "misleads consumers".

One Labour backbencher even declares: "(Agencies) are guilty of telling more lies than politicians", while another says: "They are unscrupulous, ruthless, grasping and duplicitous."

The association has brushed off the findings. "The official Labour Party is extremely positive about us and does not endorse these worries," says Andrew Brown, the association's director-general. "The point is not to be confused between individual, anonymous opinions and official policy."

DAVID OGILVY, the co-founder of Ogilvy and Mather, one of the world's top ten agencies, publishes an updated version of his 1978 autobiography on March 20.

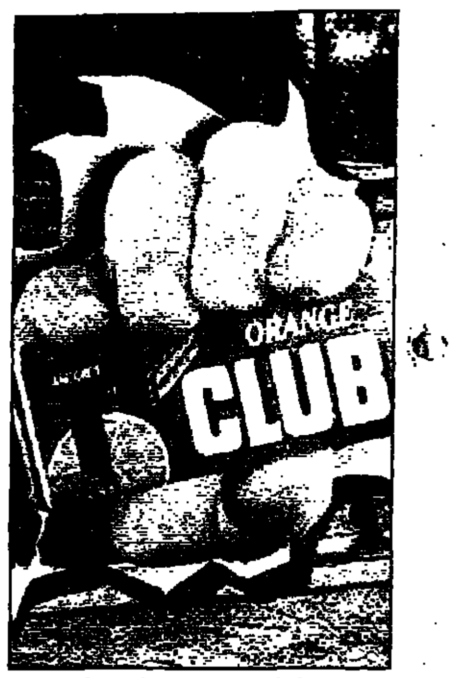
The £16.99 hardback, published by John Wiley, tells his rags-to-riches life story, from childhood poverty and his early working years flogging Aga cookers to nuns in Scotland to his launching of the profitable O&M.

It also includes some revealing extras about the 85-year-old Ogilvy, who now lives in a 14th-century château in Bonnes, France. These include his favourite words (such as egregious, nubile and ragamuffin), his favourite recipes (mushroom soup and honey ice-cream) and his favourite friends (the Duke of Edinburgh, Eleanor Roosevelt and a conspicuously small number of O&M colleagues).

ONE of the most memorable advertising jingles bites the dust from today, as Jacob's Bakery unveils a new campaign for Club biscuits minus its familiar signature tune.

The slogan "If you like a lot of chocolate on your biscuit join our Club" was created in 1982. Jacob's Bakery's new agency, Euro RSCG Wneck Gosper, has created a high-tech campaign which breaks tonight. Sources say it reflects the new "high-tech" Club biscuit, with 15 per cent more chocolate and an improved centre. Nothing is sacred, it seems.

BELINDA ARCHER



Jacob's Club: going high-tech

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Why the real battle will be fought on our screens

Two young and ambitious correspondents have their eyes on the BBC's top political post, says **Michael Gove**

Old and new: Britain's favourite Ulsterman John Cole (left) was replaced by Robin Oakley; inset (from top) Vine, Sopel and Sergeant

The real battle in the coming election will not be between Major and Blair, nor even Portillo and Redwood, but Sopel and Vine. Their names may be only hazily familiar but the faces and voices of BBC political correspondents Jon Sopel and Jeremy Vine have insinuated themselves into the public consciousness and are likely to become more prominent as this interminable election campaign reaches its anti-climax.

The BBC's political team has already attracted the wrong sort of attention this week with an attack on the Corporation's alleged Blairite bias from Tory communications director Charles Lewington in *The Sunday Telegraph*. Both Sopel and Vine might have been in Lewington's mind. The former has written an accessible and broadly sympathetic biography of the Labour leader, the latter is an energetic muscular Christian in the mould of Mr Blair. But, whatever affinities with the Labour leader either might have, the minds of these two consummate professionals during the election will not be directed towards promoting anyone other than themselves.

Both, like Tory leadership contenders, will be using the election campaign to position themselves for a job where no vacancy currently exists but whose holder is the victim of an unfair whispering campaign. The job they have their eye on is the most prestigious reporting post in broadcasting — political editor of the BBC. The incumbent, Robin Oakley, who used to fill the same post on this newspaper, enjoys the respect of colleagues in the parliamentary lobby for the range of his knowledge, quality of his prose, scrupulous professionalism and quiet authority.

Oakley inherited the herringbone mantle of political editor from John Cole. Cole is England's favourite Ulsterman and the voice the nation turned to in crisis, from Westland to the fall of Thatcher, to be informed of the latest perfidy in a suitably authoritative fashion which still had bite — Reith with teeth. When Oakley replaced Cole, as another painstaking reporter with Fleet Street battle honours, he sought to emulate Cole's style.

But ever since Oakley arrived at the Beeb he has been, like Juninho at Middlesbrough, a classy player underappreciated by those around him. There was resentment among the corporation's older sweats that the post of political editor had gone to someone whose background was in print, not broadcasting. Many Beeb insiders would have preferred Cole's dogged deputy, chief political correspondent John Sergeant, to succeed. Some shows, such as *The World at One*, still prefer to have "Sargie" provide political commentary in his fireside tones. Oakley has proved an authoritative broadcaster but that has not quelled the critics. There are rumours that after the election elements within the BBC will try to ease Oakley out and the race is already on among his juniors to succeed him. Sopel and Vine are the two most obvious contenders, notable for their ambition, ability and determination to develop a new style of political broadcasting.

The whispers against Oakley have been fomented by a BBC faction who feel that his calm, detached, rational style does not have the breathless appeal of his ITN opposite number, Michael Brunson.

While *News at Ten* has eased itself off the Olympian heights and into the middle market, Brunson has kept the profile of politics high by adopting a more populist style. His formidable form, mackintoshed against the wind, has become as permanent a fixture in the nightly bulletin as Big Ben. The ITN political editor has managed to carve a suitably large niche for himself with a willingness to preface his reports with a punchy: "In this leak I have just been handed, Trevor.'

The direct style, coupled with some genuine exclusives, has impressed some BBC executives who believe politics needs to be dramatised to engage the 1990s audience.

Sopel and Vine satisfy that appetite. Presenters as much as reporters, with Sopel a regular on PM and Vine on *Five Live*, they have cultivated their own personalities as assiduously as lobby contacts.

They tread subtly different populist paths. Vine has made imaginative use of broadcast resources to grab the audience's attention. One radio report which has been raised to mythic status began with the sound of blades being whetted in a kebab shop and after a few seconds of blood-chilling effects Vine's voice broke in to the effect that "The knives being sharpened here in Stavros's Grill are as nothing to those being unsheathed in Central Office ..." Vine's reports delight in arresting metaphors, visual and audio.

Sopel's style is more matter, less art. He has thrust himself to the attention of BBC executives with an aggressive approach to story-getting which has unsettled more traditional political journalists. He has acquired a reputation as one of the most lethal lunchers in the lobby. Recently, Sopel entertained the Chancellor in the three Michelin star splendour of Nico at Ninety. A day later, on *The World at One*, a detailed and explosive sketch of Clarke's mind was broadcast. The quotations attributed to those close to Clarke could not have been more clearly from the horse's mouth.

If there was any doubt as to Sopel's source, the presence of Shadow Environment Secretary Frank Dobson in the same restaurant that lunchtime ensured that the truth would out. Sopel's rush to the studio with his scoop, and the ease with which the source was uncovered, distressed old lobby hands who guard the identity of their informants more closely than the Stasi. His coup, however, earned Sopel the admiration of executives in the Beeb.

For those who want a change at the top there was icing on the Chez Nico cake — Frank Dobson's lunch partner was Robin Oakley. The BBC political editor was scooped by his junior.

Oakley's future will prove a pointer to the BBC's future direction — he is a canary in the corporation corridors. If he survives then so will a commitment to traditional political reporting. If he is eased aside, a more assertive tone will replace the measured cadences on which the nation has come to rely.

When truth is bound to hurt people

Fact spells friction when it comes to docudramas, says **Patricia Holland**

Undoubtedly, if a drama on television or in the cinema is preceded by the caption "this is a true story", viewers will gather in greater numbers and with a heightened eagerness. If *No Child of Mine*, the docudrama of a young girl abused by her family and the care system, had been a fictional Film on Four, it would hardly have whipped its critics into such a passionate frenzy as we saw in the press last week.

It's OK to imagine the dreadful things that undoubtedly happen occasionally. It's quite different to document them in a drama. This was confirmed by the director, Peter Kosminsky, bruised by the hostile reaction to his film, in a debate on docudramas hosted by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts on Monday. Since the BBC banned *The War Game*, and *Cathy Come Home* came under attack for confusing fact and fiction, the drama documentary form on television has rubbed people up the wrong way — especially those whose complacency is shaken by troublesome images which claim to be "the truth". True stories also have consequences in the real world, even when film-makers guarantee anonymity to their subjects. "If I had known that two newspapers would try to track the girl down, I probably wouldn't have made it," said Kosminsky. "It has been a dreadful week for her and for us."

> 'We need people with courage to produce such films'

In the Bafta debate, programme makers from documentary and drama backgrounds circled the issue of fidelity to the facts. It could be, as Charles McDougall, director of Granada's *Hillsborough*, pointed out, that the least credible things are true. "Some material we saw was too disgusting to put on television, even late at night," he said. In the words of Jim Sheridan, writer of *In the Name of the Father*, which dramatised for the cinema the lives of Gerry and Guiseppe Conlon, wrongly jailed for the IRA Birmingham bombing, "things don't happen as documentary as you think". For Michael Mansfield QC, who has been closely involved in exposing miscarriages of justice, the detail is less important in such dramas than the expression of a truth that is unpalatable to the authorities. "We live in a society where vision and principle have evaporated, and we need people with courage who will produce this sort of film."

For him, *In the Name of the Father* has an inner truth. This is the truth of commitment, for these are all dramas with a conscience. They set out to right wrongs, to expose the reality of a situation, to express a passionate partisanship — what the best of television has done in memorable programmes from *Cathy Come Home* through to *Who Bombed Birmingham* and *Why Lockerbie*.

And yet ... If events are changed and chronologies shifted for dramatic effect, if some events are overlooked and others amalgamated, an unsympathetic critic may point out that the bigger assertions will lose credibility. Any departure from the facts is the beginning of a very slippery slope. Cinema offers greater scope for this. For instance, *In the Name of the Father* would have run into problems on television, where lawyers have the final say on a programme's content. David Aukin, C4's head of drama, described how "dictats come down from offices I don't normally speak to" for a drama which is based on fact, such as the upcoming *Welcome to Sarajevo*, which deals with the experiences of reporter Michael Nicholson and his bid to rescue a child from the besieged city.

The *Hillsborough* team felt that the involvement of lawyers was no bad thing. The checking and rechecking meant that the victims' families could be sure that the programme represented their views.

They said: "We didn't change anything for artistic reasons, and we didn't get too precious about our art. It is possible to make a programme which is true to the facts and still maintain your dramatic integrity."

Biting the hand that feeds them

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

As the Saturday and Sunday newspapers demonstrate, it is no longer considered un-English to show an interest in food. When *The Times* joined with restaurants last year to offer lunch for a fiver, more than 40,000 readers responded. So serious newspapers can no longer afford to be without star restaurant critics who eat for England and their editors.

As A A Gill, who manages to eat out and watch television for a living with *The Sunday Times*, puts it: "I eat *foié gras* to put bread on the family table." The newest recruit to the ranks, who does not have the same worries as A A Gill, is the newly ennobled Lord Lloyd-Webber, who writes about the restaurants he visits in *The Daily Telegraph* on Saturdays.

So when novelist Will Self, restaurant critic of *The Observer*, bowed out last Sunday, he was given star billing on the front page of the Review. He solved the problem of how to end it all by eating two lunches on the same day, one at McDonald's on London's King's Road, the other at Pierre Koffmann's La Tante Claire, one of London's three Michelin three-star restaurants. There are several sorts of restaurant critic. Some seek simply to show off their wit and cleverness, some seek to inform, and some manage to do both. Self was becoming one of them. As he munched manfully through his hamburger at McDonald's, followed by a lobster bisque and *côte de boeuf sauce vigneronne* at Tante Claire, he couldn't resist adding Proustian touches.

His companion was surprised to find his nuggets tasting of chicken at all, even if the flavour, according to Self, was effectively a reminiscence, a kind of "*Ou sont les nuggets d'Antan?*" experience. His bisque was so thick and creamy it looked more like the surface of Neptune than a soup. As his two lunches ended, he picked at the smallest madeleine he had ever seen — "*à la recherche du milliseconds perdus*". The meal cost £194.20.

There are some jobs in journalism which arouse universal envy. Television and theatre critics get used to being told what cushy jobs they have. So do restaurant critics and travel editors. And yes, eating out, watching plays or travelling to the Caribbean are fun — but the writing is neither easy nor fun. Delivering a thousand words overnight is hard work and if the words aren't witty or full of useful information a writer will soon be fired.

After years of writing the restaurant column in *The Spectator*, Nigella Lawson found that eating out was no longer a treat. Her palate had become so jaded that she took a six-month sabbatical. Her successor, David Fingleton, takes notes as he eats and asks for the menu when he leaves.

Last week he investigated Marco Pierre White's three latest London restaurants. He was uncovered by White as he made his notes and was offered a free drink after the meal. It made no difference to his verdicts. At the Criterion, the £89.49 bill seemed "excessive" for "unremarkable" cooking; at Quo Vadis in Soho the wines were "ludicrously over-priced" and the bill of £109.41 "outrageous".

Marco Pierre White's reputation is now so high — Gill rates him as the best cook in Britain — that Fingleton's verdict may not affect his bookings. But restaurant critics undoubtedly have power to make or break restaurants. A rave review from any one critic — Jonathan Meades in *The Times*, Fay Maschler in the *Evening Standard*, Lloyd-Webber in the *Telegraph*, Fingleton in *The Spectator* or Gill in *The Sunday Times* — delivers a packed restaurant.

The critics themselves are more modest about their power. Meades's experience, certainly outside London, is that it is unlikely that a damning review can close a restaurant. Gill thinks that word of mouth is the most important ingredient in a restaurant's success — though that can be swelled by a rave review in a newspaper.

Meades, who is a pretty good cook himself, is more worried that restaurant critics should know about their food and how to cook. Editors would not tolerate a music critic who knew nothing about music. So they should not tolerate restaurant critics who don't know the difference between a *beurre blanc* and a *hollandaise*.

Meades is glad that writers rather than food buffs are writing restaurant reviews but detects a danger that as restaurant critics become star turns, writers will be employed simply to entertain. The job, however, is to inform as well as entertain. "Purely to entertain is insulting to the reader and the chef."

That criticism cannot be applied to the doyenne of the trade, Fay Maschler, who has been a critic of London restaurants for more than 20 years. Her star rating has been recognised by a succession of editors, including her present editor, Max Hastings. "Food has become an increasingly important part of journalism," he says. "Fay has a huge following and what she says is taken seriously."

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THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5 1997

NEWS

Furore over rightwinger's outburst

■ The Conservative Party was embarrassed when one of its MPs was heard heaping personal abuse on Virginia Bottomley and his Labour opponent as part of an attack on the "dreadful" women in politics.

David Evans, the rightwing MP for Welwyn Hatfield, described the Heritage Secretary as "dead from the neck upwards". He went on to deride Melanie Johnson, his Labour opponent, saying that she had "three bastard children" and had never done a proper job........ **Page 1**

Major takes the may out of May

■ The Prime Minister paved the way for a six-week election campaign when he all but confirmed that it would be on May 1. John Major told a BBC programme that it was a "fair expectation" that the election would be that day........ **Page 1**

Soccer stalemate

Three soccer stars accused of match fixing were must wait to see whether they will face a fresh trial after a jury failed to reach a verdict........ **Page 1**

Train woman stabbed

A woman was in a critical condition in hospital after being stabbed in the head on a train in Surrey during an apparently motiveless attack........ **Page 1**

Labour U-turn

Labour has ditched its pledge to restore free eye and dental checks under the NHS. Party aides said the question of charges would be reviewed if Labour wins the election........ **Page 2**

Coping with grief

One year after the Dunblane shootings, in which 16 primary school children and their teacher were killed, the victims' parents say they have learnt to cope with their grief through meeting every week to laugh and cry together........ **Page 4**

Navy fashion

Six Scottish cleaning ladies have made history by joining an all-male crew of a Royal Navy warship during sea trials........ **Page 5**

Blackbeard mystery

The almost certain discovery of Blackbeard's ship has raised hopes that the publicity will solve the riddle of what happened to the pirate's skull........ **Page 6**

Parents to pay

Parents could be ordered to pay compensation for vandalism committed by their children or to keep them under night curfew under new proposals........ **Page 8**

Children's care

Half the children's intensive care units in England could be merged or closed under plans drawn up by a health committee........ **Page 10**

Nuclear battle

The German police launched baton charges against masked stone-throwing anti-nuclear protesters to gain control of a country road leading to a radioactive waste dump........ **Page 12**

Netanyahu defiant

The Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, defied criticism by President Clinton and other world leaders and vowed to start work within days on a settlement in occupied east Jerusalem........ **Page 13**

Albanians disarmed

The Albanian Army began to disarm rebels in southern Albania under emergency regulations issued by President Berisha authorising troops to open fire on armed protesters........ **Page 14**

Clinton data row

Hillary Clinton encouraged a plan to copy White House databases to help the Democratic election campaign, in an apparent breach of laws........ **Page 15**

A welcome in the Hillsides

■ William Hague, the last bachelor in the Cabinet, is engaged to a Welsh civil servant he calls Jolly Jenkins. The couple fell in love while she was teaching him the words to the Welsh national anthem. The Welsh Secretary said that he will marry Ffion Jenkins, 29, next year. Bookmakers immediately cut his odds on becoming a future party leader........ **Page 3**

PAUL HACKETT / Reuters

Tony Blair welcomes to Westminster Ben Chapman, the winner of the Wirral South by-election. The Conservatives are now in a minority

BUSINESS

Halifax: The building society is considering a share buy-back or special dividend after it floats on the stockmarket in June........ **Page 25**

MFI: Shares fell 21 per cent after the furniture retailer warned the stockmarket that growth in sales has almost halved in the key winter sales period........ **Page 25**

Store sale: Littlewoods, the pools-to-retailing group, has put its 135-strong chain of stores up for sale. Asda and Tesco were immediately tipped as front-runners for the outlets........ **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 50.6 points to close at 4357.7. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 98.0 to 98.5 after a fall from $1.6197 to $1.6170 but a rise from DM2.7425 to DM2.7643... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: The reputation of English football is in limbo after the failure of law to come to a verdict in the trial of Grobbelaar, Segers, Fashanu and Lim........ **Page 48**

Cricket: New Zealand won the fifth one-day international against England by 28 runs in Wellington to draw the series 2-2 with one match tied........ **Page 46**

Rugby union: For the first time since the five nations' championship last year Scotland have named an unchanged side for the match against France in Paris........ **Page 45**

Motor racing: Michael Schuacher, who has been twice a formula One world champion, talks to Oliver Holt about the future and his chances of a world championship with Ferrari........ **Page 44**

ARTS

Circus in town: Philippe Decouflé was the talk of Paris with his stunning circus-theatre. Now Woking Dance Umbrella stages a British premiere........ **Page 33**

Rising star: At 21 choreographer Tom Sapsford has a place with the Royal Ballet. He also has a second commission on a tour........ **Page 33**

Chorus of disapproval: The American choreographer Martha Clarke puts her stamp on Gluck's intimate chamber opera *Orpheus and Eurydice* but leaves the chorus in the dark........ **Page 34**

Double act: Cambridge hosts the European premiere of *Widows*, a remarkable collaboration between Ariel Dorfman (*Death and the Maiden*) and Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*)........ **Page 35**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
Geoff Brown reviews *Jerry Maguire*, the latest blockbuster starring Tom Cruise

■ BOOKS
Peter Riddell on the life and fast times of Tim Bell, the ultimate political spin doctor

FEATURES

McAlpine memoirs: How Cecil Parkinson was thrown to the political wolves at the Conservative Party conference in 1983 and the bombing at the Grand Hotel in 1984........ **Page 17**

Domestic work: Nigella Lawson on why it is essential that cleaning work is repected........ **Page 17**

Real clothes: Iain R. Webb on how London Fashion Week showed that top fashions can be enjoyed by everyone........ **Page 16**

MEDIA

Screen struggle: The real election battle will be between the BBC political correspondents... **Page 23**

Crossed wires: Brenda Maddox on why there should be a single agency to regulate telecommunications and broadcasting........ **Page 22**

HOMES

House detectives: Your house may have a remarkable history, if you take the time and trouble to find out........ **Page 41**

THE PAPERS

Is it necessary to wait for Le Pen and his followers to demand Jews and Arabs be sent to concentration camps in order to be gassed or that the extreme right adopts the Nazi salute and the swastika as badges of recognition before there is a reaction from the justice system

—*France-Soir*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Hong Kong ponders an uncertain future: *Modern Times* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond watches Clive James in a tangle........ **Page 47**

OPINION

John and Brian

The Conservatives' best hope lies in linking their strongest cards: the state of the economy and uncertainty about new Labour........ **Page 19**

Albania's press

Democracy is staggering in Europe's poorest country. If it is not to be stifled altogether, free voices must be restored to print and the airwaves........ **Page 19**

Murder most literary

It was a dark and stormy night: just as the oldest and best thrillers start. Nevertheless, last night hundreds turned out for a debate on the art of literary murder........ **Page 19**

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

The two could not have been less alike. One was a Cavalier, the other a Roundhead, one an Anglican, the other a Dissenter, one a Tory, the other never. Drape the one in a Union Jack and he would cheer; the other would groan. Yet both were English, indeed they were the warp and woof of Englishness... **Page 18**

ALAN COREN

The reason motorists are unsafe is that man was originally designed to move at a top speed of 15mph, for which two eyes, four limbs, slow reflexes, and frangible bones were perfectly adequate. But when man invented a tin box his natural kit proved to be so unfitted to cope with this that he began killing himself and his kind in umpteen new ways........ **Page 18**

SIMON BARNES

Sport is an unnatural act and not an animal pastime at all. It is a high product of civilisation, one that is based on the brain's capacity to master natural instinct. **Page 44**

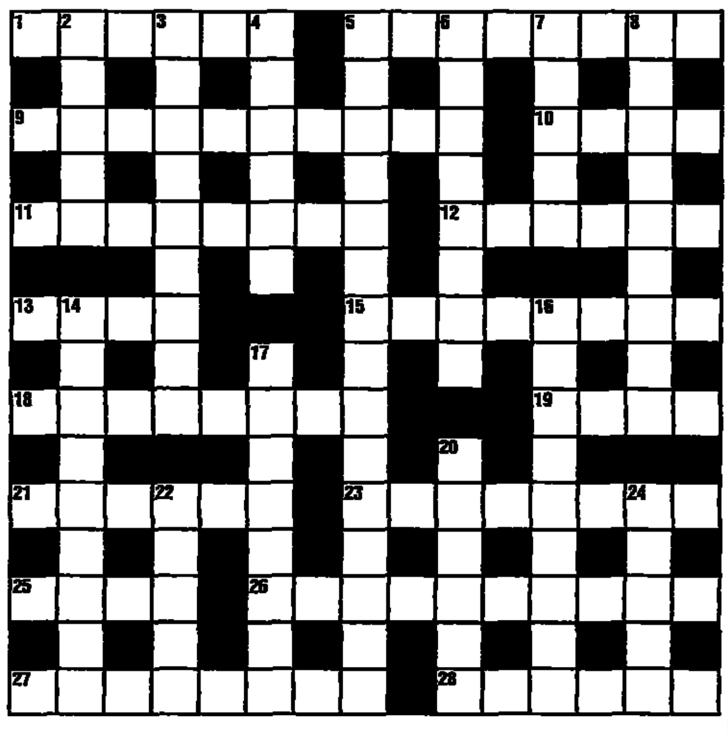
OBITUARIES

Sir Martin Furnival Jones, former Director-General of MI5; **Lord Chelmer**, former Conservative treasurer; **Professor Frank Llewellyn Jones**, Principal of University College, Swansea..... **Page 21**

LETTERS

Lady Falkender on McAlpine; Rabbi Sacks's politics of hope; Burma; financing litigation........ **Page 19**

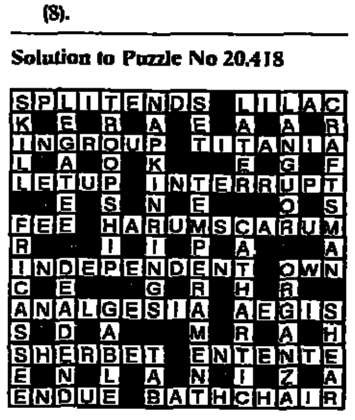
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,419



ACROSS
1 Not much butter or jam (6).
5 Military operation merely confused recruit again (8).
9 Restaurant worker whose job is on the line? (10).
10 Dress originally cut for Sally (4).
11 Book of the month in France, once (8).
12 Where in Europe an African appears extremely deprived (6).
13 Engagement as result of instant partnership (4).
15 Ailing company reorganised in a rational way, one thinks (8).
18 State of the French before (and English after) fighting (8).
19 Key point accepted by judge (4).
21 City, capital of Zaire, with a mountain seen from the east (6).
23 Exemplary work seen in school (8).
25 Nothing's nicked from prison wing, possibly (4).
26 Aim to get fit — that's wise (10).
27 Lens we're developing for the latest in pictures (8).
28 As yet inconclusive summit meeting (2,4).

DOWN
2 What one must do to get a little lower (5).
3 Plant I found more than once in a sort of stream (9).
4 Sort of comedy that could be therapeutic for a Cockney (6).
5 Abhor really tall new building in London (5,6,4).
6 Wishes not to have unknown starting pay (8).
7 Displease the crown in speech (5).
8 Decorated one soldier invading in spring (9).
14 Standing, as a machinist might be (9).
16 Eccentric examining group producing stiff paper (9).
17 A lot of troops assembled to penetrate East after trouble (8).
20 Partner once given roasting about initially rash bid (6).
22 Puzzling representation from leisure business (5).
24 Early hooter (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,418



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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Salcombe, Devon, 1.26in; highest sunshine: Leuchars, Fife, 8.2hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales will start cloudy although there will be a little brightness in the south-east at first. Cloud will thicken to bring rain to much of Wales and northern England during the morning and to the remainder of England during the afternoon. Most places will finish the day rather damp or wet.

Northern Ireland and western Scotland will start wet with the rain spreading into eastern Scotland during the morning. The rain is expected to clear from the west during the afternoon allowing all but the Border counties of Scotland to see the sun before dusk. However, showers will start to run into western areas before dark. Generally mild but rather windy.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Midlands, E England, Central N England, NE England:** mainly cloudy though some brightness at first. Rain later in afternoon. Wind southwest mainly moderate. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District:** mainly dry early but rain soon, then wet. Wind southwest moderate or fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Isle of Man, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** a wet start. Brighter showery weather spreading from the west in afternoon. Wind southwest becoming west, fresh or strong, perhaps gale in places. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Borders, SW Scotland:** dry early then wet. Rain clearing after dark. Wind southwest fresh or strong. Max 10C (50F)

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** dry early then rain. Becoming drier and brighter during the afternoon. Wind southwest becoming west later, fresh occasionally strong.

☐ **Outlook**: fine early tomorrow then wind, rain and showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

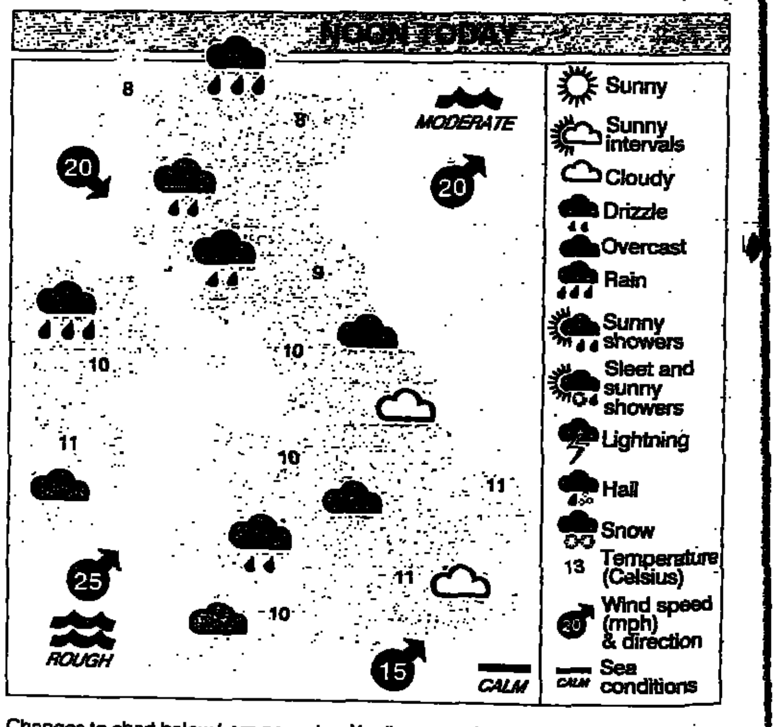
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	7.0	-	10	50	b	Littlehmptn	-	0.49	10	50	r
Anglesey	1.1	0.01	11	52	b	London	-	0.28	11	52	r
Aspatria	5.2	-	9	48	s	Lowestoft	-	0.01	7	45	d
Aviemore	4.5	0.01	8	46	b	Manchester	-	0.04	8	46	r
Belfast	5.1	-	8	46	s	Margate	-	0.14	11	52	fg
Birmingham	-	0.02	8	46	r	Minehead	0.6	0.47	12	54	c
Bognor R	-	0.51	10	50	r	Morecambe	1.9	-	9	48	c
Bournem'th	-	0.92	10	50	r	Newcastle	6.7	-	10	50	s
Bristol	-	0.32	12	54	r	Newquay	x				
Buxton	-	0.03	5	41	d	Norwich	-	0.07	8	46	r
Cardiff	-	0.41	10	50	d	Oxford	-	0.11	9	48	r
Clacton	-	0.04	7	45	fg	Penzance	x	0.89	8	46	d
Cleethorpes	x					Poole	-	0.90	11	52	r
Colwyn Bay	2.0	0.03	11	52	r	Prestatyn	x				
Cromer	0.5	0.01	7	45	du	Ross-o-wye	-	0.23	9	48	r
Edinburgh	6.8	0.03	12	54	s	Ryde	x				
Eskdalemuir	6.0	-	9	48	s	Salcombe	-	1.26	11	52	fg
Exmouth	-	0.50	10	50	fg	Sandown	0.1	0.72	10	50	r
Falmouth	-	0.80	8	46	du	Saunton Snd	0.7	0.23	14	57	du
Fishguard	1.0	0.31	9	48	d	Scarboro'	5.1	-	8	46	s
Folkestone	0.2	0.28	10	50	fg	Shanklin	x				
Glasgow	6.8	0.01	11	52	s	Shrewsbury	-	0.13	7	45	r
Guernsey	-	0.45	13	55	sh	Skegness	-	0.02	7	45	r
Hastings	-	0.27	10	50	r	Southend	x				
Hayling I.	-	0.51	10	50	r	Southport	-	0.01	9	48	c
Herne Bay	-	0.17	11	52	du	Southsea	-	0.46	10	50	r
Hove	0.8	x	9	48	sh	Stornoway	-	0.02	7	45	c
Hunstanton	x	0.02	8	46	d	Swanage	-	1.05	10	50	r
Isle of Man	3.1	0.01	8	46	s	Teignmouth	-	0.76	11	52	du
Jersey	0.6	0.36	12	54	r	Tenby	-	0.53	10	50	r
Kinloss	3.6	-	11	52	b	Tiree	3.7	0.01	7	45	b
Leeds	0.7	-	7	45	c	Torquay	-	0.92	11	52	c
Lerwick	7.1	0.08	8	46	s	Tynemouth	-	-	7	45	c
Leuchars	8.2	-	10	50	s	Ventnor	0.2	0.97	10	50	r

ABROAD

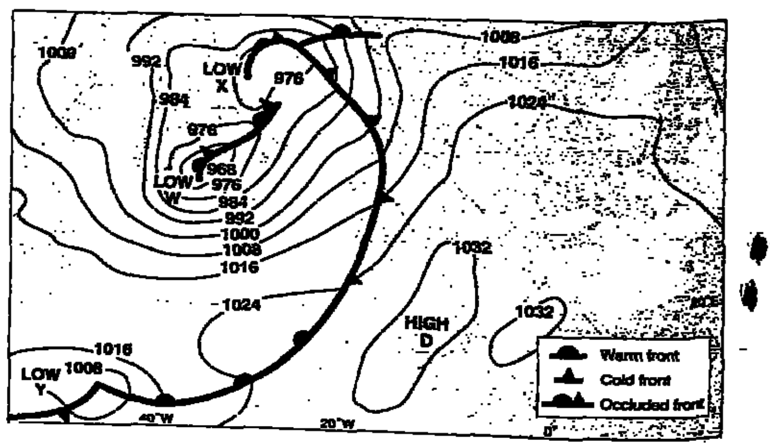
Ajaccio	15	59	s	Corfu	19	66	s	Majorca	17	63	s	Rome	17	63	s
Akrotiri	18	64	c	C'phagn	8	46	f	Malaga	17	63	c	S Fr'sco	13	55	s
Alex'dria	18	64	c	Dublin	7	45	s	Malta	17	63	s	S Paulo	19	66	c
Algiers	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	18	64	f	Melb'rne	19	66	f	Salzburg	11	52	r
Amst'dm	9	48	s	Faro	19	66	s	Mexico C	24	75	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Athens	16	61	s	Florence	16	61	s	Miami	28	82	s	Seoul	5	41	s
B Aires	22	72	f	Frankfurt	9	48	f	Milan	18	64	s	Sing'por	31	88	s
Bahrain	20	68	s	Funchal	22	72	f	Montreal	-6	21	s	St'kholm	8	46	f
Bangkok	31	88	f	Geneva	15	59	s	Moscow	4	39	c	Strasb'rg	10	50	c
Barbados	27	81	f	Gibraltar	17	63	c	Munich	12	54	f	Sydney	23	73	s
Barcelona	17	63	s	Helsinki	5	41	c	N Delhi	21	70	s	Tangier	21	70	s
Beirut	16	61	f	Hong K	15	59	s	N York	5	41	f	Tel Aviv	13	55	r
Belgrade	17	63	s	Innsbrck	10	50	s	Nairobi	28	82	s	Tenerife	26	79	s
Berlin	9	48	s	Istanbul	11	52	s	Naples	21	70	s	Tokyo	6	43	c
Bermuda	22	72	f	Jeddah	29	84	f	Nice	16	61	s	Toronto	-1	30	f
Biarritz	21	70	s	Jo'burg	27	81	s	Oslo	9	48	s	Tunis	17	63	f
Borde'x	17	63	s	L Angels	x	x	x	Paris	9	48	d	Valencia	19	66	s
Brussels	10	50	f	L Palmas	25	77	s	Peking	14	57	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	f
Budapest	18	64	f	Le Touquet	10	50	s	Perth	27	81	s	Venice	15	59	s
Cairo	18	64	f	Lisbon	19	66	s	Prague	6	43	f	Vienna	15	59	f
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Locarno	15	59	c	Reykjavik	-1	30	sn	Warsaw	8	46	f
Ch'church	x	x	x	Luxembg	9	48	f	Rhodes	17	63	s	Wash'ton	4	39	r
Chicago	3	37	s	Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	24	75	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	s
Cologne	10	50	s	Madrid	19	66	s	Riyadh	28	82	f	Zurich	14	57	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday x - not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low Y will move quickly NE and deepen rapidly; lows W and X will move slowly NE and fill; high D will drift slowly E into the Continent



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	09.59	6.0	22.37	6.2	Leith	11.06	4.7	23.52	4.9
Aberdeen	09.58	3.6	22.42	3.8	Liverpool	07.35	7.9	20.14	8.1
Avonmouth	03.08	10.7	15.47	11.1	Lowestoft	05.52	2.2	18.15	2.2
Belfast	07.19	3.0	20.01	3.1	Margate	08.14	4.0	20.50	4.1
Cardiff	02.54	10.0	15.33	10.5	Milford Haven	02.21	5.5	15.00	5.8
Devonport	01.22	4.5	14.12	4.5	Newquay	01.21	5.6	13.58	5.7
Dover	07.18	5.6	20.00	5.8	Oban	02.43	3.2	15.12	3.1
Dublin (N Wall)	08.09	3.6	20.52	3.8	Penzance	00.45	4.5	13.24	4.6
Falmouth	00.53	4.3	13.43	4.3	Portland	02.42	1.4	15.34	1.4
Greenock	09.05	2.9	21.19	2.9	Portsmouth	07.48	4.0	20.38	4.1
Harwich	07.59	3.4	20.33	3.4	Shoreham	07.30	5.2	20.14	5.4
Holyhead	06.54	4.7	19.33	4.8	Southampton	07.04	3.9	19.48	3.9
Hull (Albert D)	02.30	7.3	15.03	7.5	Swansea	02.28	7.8	15.07	8.0
Ilfracombe	02.04	7.3	14.44	7.5	Tees	-	-	12.18	4.5
King's Lynn	02.33	5.2	15.07	6.5	Walton-on-N	08.00	3.5	20.35	3.6

All times GMT. Heights in metres

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.37 am
Sun sets: 5.48 pm
Moon sets 1.28 pm
Moon rises 4.06 am
New moon March 9

London 5.48 pm to 6.35 am
Bristol 5.58 pm to 6.45 am
Edinburgh 5.56 pm to 6.52 am
Manchester 5.54 pm to 6.45 am
Penzance 6.11 pm to 6.55 am

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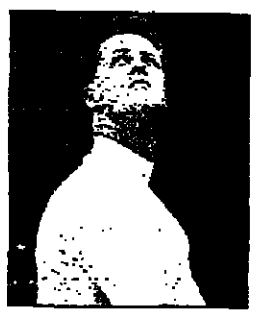

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 5 1997

Halifax cash pile points to second payout

By Gavin Lumsden

HALIFAX Building Society, which converts to a bank in June, is awash with cash and needs to dispense with more than £3 billion of surplus capital reserves, it revealed yesterday.

Even before it floats the society is considering opening the coffers to its 8.5 million new shareholders, either via a special dividend or a share buyback programme.

Announcing Halifax's annual results yesterday, Roger Boyes, group finance director, said the society's capital structure was inappropiate for its future. He said: "The money is broadly invested in the money markets where it is not getting a huge return. The task of the board is to enhance the returns on the money. We cannot rule out returning capital to shareholders. The alternative is to find new ways, either through acquisitions or by investing in organic growth and our existing businesses."

Halifax has built up £6.87 billion of capital reserves, giving it a tier 1 ratio of 14 per cent, double that of most banks and three times the level required by the Bank of England. Although it has declined to enter the fray for Scottish Amicable, Halifax could fund bids for companies as diverse as Northern Rock, Allied Irish, Friends Provident, Perpetual and Mercury Asset Management.

Gren Folwell, deputy chief executive, said that he would introduce a loyalty scheme to ensure an even higher level of support from private shareholders than at Abbey National, which has retained a 45 per cent retail shareholder base since its conversion.

The prospect of a further windfall could tempt a high number of Halifax members to hang on to their shares, barring the entry of institutional investors, such as tracker funds, into the FT-SE 100-listed stock.

Ian Morley, head of derivatives at John Govett, said that illiquidity in Halifax shares would cause some tracking error but that holders would sell shares eventually thereby easing the situation.

Analysts raised concerns about the company's direction as it revealed a modest 6.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £1.43 billion. Despite spending £626 million on discounts and cash incentives Halifax saw its share of net new mortgage lending slipped to 11 per cent (£2 billion), compared with its 20 per cent stake of all mortgage stock.

Halifax said that in the first half it had withdrawn from the intensely competitive remortgaging market. In total it made 210,000 loans, including 70,000 to first-time buyers, with 70 per cent of loans on an interest-only basis backed by endowments or Peps.

Similarly, its share of new liquid savings was 7 per cent (£2.4 billion), well off its 16 per cent presence in personal sector liquid assets.

However, personal loans grew £182 million to £1.09 billion. Profits were also hit by the additional £298 million costs of merging with the Leeds Building Society and conversion expenses, which had reached £153 million.

Jon Foulds, chairman, said the results showed Halifax was en route to being the UK's leading provider of personal financial services.

However, one analyst said Halifax should reduce diversification and refocus on the core mortgage and lending businesses. "With the right capital structure Halifax is saying it could make a capital return of 25 per cent on its core markets. If so, it would do better to concentrate here, although it will probably have to make acquisitions and offer something to shareholders to mop up the excessively high level of reserves."

Pennington, page 27

Pledge by Honda on British operations

By Oliver August

HONDA, the Japanese automobile group, has rejected recent criticism of the British Government by other foreign investors and said it will keep its UK operations even if Britain opts out of the European single currency.

Kentaro Kato, the European executive vice-president in charge of manufacturing, said: "We operate in many countries, which means in every part of the world we try to avoid currency fluctuations. Therefore, there is no intention to change investment strategy if they join or not."

He emphasised that overall manufacturing costs were not particularly high in Europe. Higher than average costs at the Swindon plant were due to the fact that the plant had not been fully written down rather than currency problems. "The comparative costs are at a slight disadvantage because it's new," Mr Kato said.

Senior executives at Siemens, Unilever and Toyota have recently given warnings of the adverse consequences of staying out of monetary union because damaging currency fluctuations could increase in Britain while they would decrease in Europe.

Mr Kato said that Honda's sales in Europe were growing strongly after the company sold 200,000 cars in 1996. Its Civic and Accord models are mainly responsible for the sales rise.

Looking up: Robert Peel, chief executive of Thistle Hotels, wants to open 2,000 new rooms a year. Profits before tax and exceptional charges for the year to the end of December rose 73 per cent to £60 million on sales up 8.5 per cent Page 27

Bid battle likely for Littlewoods store chain

By Jon Ashworth

ANALYSTS predicted a bidding scramble after Littlewoods, the pools-to-retailing group, confirmed it has put its 135-strong chain of stores up for sale. Asda and Tesco were immediately tipped as front-runners for the outlets, which are expected to fetch £500 million or more.

The move, which follows a long period of turbulence at Britain's biggest private company, would allow Littlewoods to focus on its home shopping interests. Earlier this year the company, which is controlled by descendants of Sir John Moores, announced plans to buy Freemans from Sears for £395 million. The deal is under review by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Details emerged as Littlewoods announced interim pre-tax profits of £112.1 million (£97.3 million) in the year to December 31. Group retail sales rose 8.5 per cent to £1.8 billion, but the impact of the National Lottery left overall sales 1.3 per cent lower at £2.3 billion. The leisure division saw turnover tumble to £459 million (£631 million). Littlewoods has changed its year end, and the results for the 16 months to April 1997 will be published in July.

The company had planned to invest heavily in its stores, creating 3,000 jobs, but the project was scrapped and Bob Willett resigned as head of the stores divison.

Bill Huntly, chief executive of Littlewoods, said: "We have had a plan in place for some time and we were showing year-on-year improvement in sales and profitability, but last year's improvement wasn't as much as we expected."

Asda and Tesco aside, analysts speculated on a possible bid from Marks & Spencer to safeguard its market share.

United front, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4357.7	(+50.6)
Yield	3.66%	
FTSE All share	2126.38	(+19.11)
Nikkei	18564.78	(+135.65)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6824.30	(+5.38)*
S&P Composite	797.26	(+1.95)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5³⁄₁₆%*	(5³⁄₁₆%)
Long Bond	97¹⁵⁄₃₂*	(97¹¹⁄₃₂)
Yield	6.83%*	(6.83%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6⅛%	(6³⁄₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	112⅝	(112½)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6162*	(1.6165)
London:		
$	1.6172	(1.6195)
DM	2.7644	(2.7425)
FFr	9.3234	(9.2623)
SFr	2.3961	(2.3898)
Yen	197.01	(195.68)
£ Index	98.5	(98.0)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.7141*	(1.6985)
FFr	5.7785*	(5.7325)
SFr	1.4870*	(1.4778)
Yen	121.98*	(121.28)
$ Index	104.1	(103.5)
Tokyo close Yen 121.65		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (May)	$18.90	($18.65)
GOLD		
London close	$359.80	($362.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Misery

Long-suffering commuters on the notorious "misery line" into London's Fenchurch Street station are to gain from the first big order of new passenger trains since British Rail privatisation in a deal announced yesterday by Prism, the franchise holder. **Page 26**

Wounded

Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group warned the stock market of another year of tough trading in America. **Page 31, Tempus 28**

Power firms face £1.5bn pension bill

By Gavin Lumsden

POWER COMPANIES face a £1.5 billion bill if a landmark decision by the Pensions Ombudsman is upheld, according to a union representing 30,000 electricity workers. This is a third higher than previous estimates and could thwart Labour's plans for a windfall tax on the industry and endanger thousands of jobs.

Julian Farrand, the ombudsman, last month ordered National Grid to repay £46.3 million of surpluses that it took from the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme in 1992. The company is expected this week to launch an appeal in the High Court against David Laws and Reg Mayes, former employees who complained to Dr Farrand.

Trustees of the National Grid pension fund met on Monday and are also expected to appeal against the ombudsman's verdict of "innocent maladministration".

However, Tony Cooper, general secretary of the Engineers and Managers Association, to which Mr Laws and Mr Mayes belong, expressed regret that the cases had been brought.

Refunding Mr Cooper's estimate of £1.5 billion would take most of the electricity pension funds over Inland Revenue limits on pension benefits. The result would be either losing the surpluses or their tax status, he said. Forcing power companies to pay back the money would cost jobs and encourage them to switch from final salary schemes to less generous money purchase plans. If the court overturned Dr Farrand's decision, it would probably confer full control of pension surpluses on the companies. "We are in a no-win situation," he said.

Dollar rally lifts shares to record

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

A RALLYING dollar helped London and several other European stock markets to record highs yesterday, and also helped to push sterling to its highest level against the mark for 53 months.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 50.6 points higher, at 4,357.7, just above the record set on February 19. The pound's effective index jumped to a close of 98.5 from Monday's finish at 98.0, rising two pfennigs to DM2.7688 during the session. The dollar hit a peak of DM1.7138, its best level for 34 months.

German shares also profited from dollar strength, which should encourage exporters. In Frankfurt, the DAX index closed in fresh territory above 3,300 points, boosted particularly by a rally in car shares.

The dollar is profiting partly from the view that the American economy may be strengthening and that the argument for higher US interest rates is becoming more compelling. Yesterday's American economic statistics supported this view, with sales of new homes in January jumping to the highest level for nearly 11 years.

In addition, the Conference Board, a leading business research group, said its index of leading indicators designed to forecast economic activity six to nine months ahead, jumped 0.3 per cent in January, its biggest increase for eight months. This added to Monday's survey by American purchasing managers, which showed that manufacturing activity had accelerated in February.

Markets, page 28

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Nationwide Life	37.81
Friends Provident	41.58
Black Horse Life	46.38
Scottish Amicable	48.00
Scottish Life	58.51
We can arrange this for	25.02

Male & female both aged 45 next birthday and non-smokers.	
Commercial Union	75.00
Nationwide Life	83.50
Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	88.99
Black Horse Life	101.68
Scottish Amicable	108.00
Scottish Life	137.40
We can arrange this for	53.30

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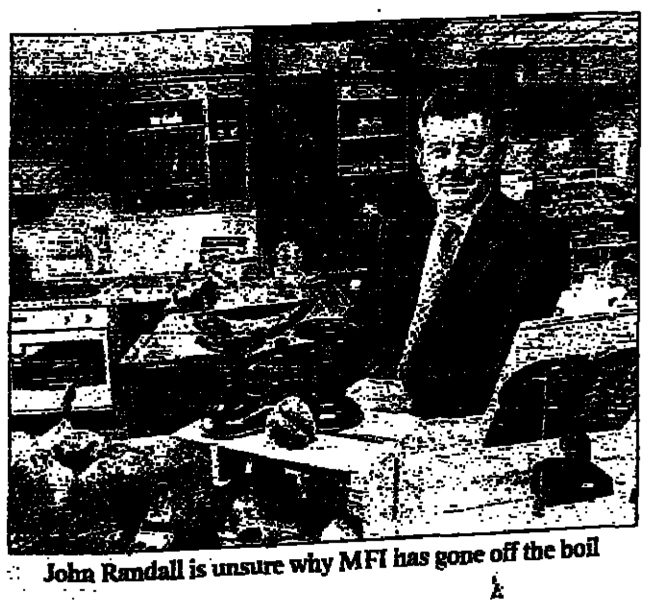
MFI value slides on winter warning



John Randall is unsure why MFI has gone off the boil

By Fraser Nelson

SHARES in MFI lost 21 per cent of their value yesterday after the furniture retailer gave warning that growth in sales has almost halved in the key winter sales period.

The company said that revenue growth had fallen to 7.3 per cent over the last 16 weeks, against the 15.7 per cent growth achieved in the six months to October. The shares fell 40½p, to 156½p, — their lowest level in more than a year — wiping £241 million from MFI's market value.

John Randall, chief executive, said that the company had no idea what was causing the slowdown. He said: "The growth in our first half came virtually out of nowhere. I couldn't tell what had caused that increase, and I'm not sure now why it has gone down."

Mr Randall said that MFI would have been well placed to gain from any growth in spending. "The business is in much better shape than it was last time," he said. "If there was something out there, I can see no reason why we should not have our fair share of it."

Although the Homeworks MFI stores traded well in the quarter, sales slipped in unconverted MFI stores, still the majority of the UK portfolio. The 99 stores in France lifted revenue by 10.7 per cent on a domestic level, but this became a decline of 7.2 per cent after conversion to sterling.

The City was stunned by the warning, and analysts marked MFI profit forecasts from £90 million to £76 million. A Charterhouse Tilney analyst said: "We were looking at January and February with a great deal of optimism. Now we see that improvement in the housing market is not following through into consumer spending. Joe Public has not exactly got his hands stuck in his pockets, but it seems he is not spending money doing up his house."

New trains for suffering 'misery line' passengers

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

LONG-SUFFERING commuters on the notorious "misery line" into Fenchurch Street station in London are to gain from the first big order of new passenger trains since British Rail privatisation.

The £200 million contract for a fleet of 44 electric, 100 mph, air-conditioned trains capable of reducing journey times by up to 10 per cent, was announced yesterday by Prism, the company that took over the London, Tilbury and Southend (LTS) franchise last year.

It brings to an end one of the longest new rolling stock droughts in the history of the British railways, which has seen only 12 new trains ordered for the entire network over the past three years.

The new rolling stock, with automatic sliding doors, will replace ageing slam-door trains, some of which date to the mid-1960s, and will be delivered by Adtranz, the Derby based manufacturer, by November 1999. They will be leased from Porterbrook.

The LTS line came to symbolise the rundown state of Britain's railways during the years before privatisation when passengers were forced to endure crowded, unreliable journeys on some of the oldest trains still in regular use in the industrialised world.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, welcomed the order as "further evidence of the good news which rail privatisation is bringing passengers".

However, critics of the sell-off said it was possible only because the Government had inflated the subsidy to the new private rail companies for political reasons.

Keith Bill, national secretary of Save Our Railways, a pressure group, said: "Prism is not spending a single penny of its shareholders' money. It's all coming from the taxpayer. The new private companies have been given double the amount of subsidy that British Rail received, and it's from that money that this leasing order comes."

The order is expected to be followed by many more from other privatised firms. They will come only just in time to save the rapidly dwindling British train manufacturing industry, which has been starved of work during the upheavals caused by privatisation.

Holliday has sights set on US

HOLLIDAY CHEMICAL, the speciality chemicals group, reported an increase in pre-tax profits to £16.1 million (£15.4 million) in the year to December 31, and said it had made rapid development in its pharmaceutical division.

The company is seeking access to the US market for ranitidine, a generic drug that the company is able to sell elsewhere but not in the US because of patent protection.

There was good growth in sales and profits from pigments, but intense competition saw dyestuffs suffer a sharp fall in turnover and profits.

Earnings per share rose to 10.5p (10.4p) and the dividend increased 0.25p to 5.25p. The shares rose 8p yesterday to 134p.

Filling in: Paul Rackam, managing director of Waste Recycling, and Tim Walsh, the landfill director, celebrate a rise in pre-tax profits to £4.1 million, from £3.1 million. Earnings rose 21 per cent to 8.1p, for a 33 per cent increase in the total dividend to 2p.

Tories plan European index of labour costs

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

THE Government wants to establish a precise measure of labour costs across Europe, hoping to demonstrate the value of the UK's flexible job market. Preparatory work for what is being called an "RPI for labour" is under way.

Government ministers believe that the policy of promoting greater labour market flexibility is paying off both in the number of inward investment companies setting up in the UK, and in estimates of Britain's relative labour cost advantage over other European countries.

Ministers emphasise that for every £100 in wage costs, non-wage costs like social benefits add a further £15 in Britain, £31 in Germany, £33 in Spain, £41 in France and as much as £44 in Italy. They believe awareness of such figures has helped to increase business and general concern about Labour's proposal to abandon the opt-out from the European social chapter.

But they are dissatisfied that Britain has no figures to match this data, which comes from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, so they are keen to take part in a programme, supported by the European Commission's statistical arm Eurostat, to establish a European-wide labour cost index, which would allow for direct comparisons of employment costs between all EU member countries.

Rivals put pressure on Centrica

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

MORE than 53,000 gas consumers in the South Coast regions of Kent and Sussex have already signed up to take supplies from rivals of Centrica, the British Gas company. News of further defections among the 900,000 customers of the former monopoly is expected before competition officially starts on Friday.

The region is the third to be opened for competition, preceded by the South West last April and Dorset and Avon on February 10. New figures from TransCo, the BG pipeline company, show that 22,000 of the half-million Dorset and Avon customers have now defected, up 6,000 since February 21.

Competition is expected to be intense on the South Coast, where price cuts have been offered by, among others, ScottishPower, which owns the local Southern Water utility, East Midlands Electricity's Sterling Gas and Calortex, which links Calor and Texaco.

In the South West, more than 95,000 of the half-million gas households have now switched, compared with 29,000 at the start of competition. Yesterday, Centrica offered a further 6 per cent cut in prices for customers in the South West who pay by direct debit, in an effort to stem "cherry-picking" of these profitable consumers by rivals. The new tariff offers a 12 per cent discount, twice that available nationally.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Boeing expects boom in aircraft orders

BOEING, the world's leading aerospace manufacturer, expects to achieve its highest-ever monthly output at the end of this year, producing 40 planes a month in the autumn. The group hired more than 20,000 people last year to cater for the increase in demand. Boeing forecasts an aircraft boom, last seen in 1980s. Over the next 20 years, the total number of jet planes will grow from 11,500 to 23,600, giving rise to orders totalling $1.1 billion.

According to Boeing's *Current Market Outlook* document, world air travel will grow 5 per cent annually. Airbus, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace, will be the other main beneficiary from this boom. The aerospace sector now effectively operates as a duopoly, with a 70-30 split in Boeing's favour. The Asia-Pacific region will see the strongest growth over the next two decades, which has led both Airbus and Boeing to look for Asian partners.

Freepages raises £43m

FREEPAGES, operator of a toll-free classified phone directory, raised a net £43.1 million through the sale of new ordinary shares and American depository receipts. The sterling placing price was set at 47.5p, while the price of the ADRs, which are equivalent to 20 ordinary shares, was $15.39. The ADRs will trade on the Nasdaq market. The new money will be used to fund joint ventures, including an agreement with VNU of The Netherlands, to introduce the Freepages service to the Benelux countries.

Pendragon lifts payout

PENDRAGON, the car dealer, raised pre-tax profits from £11.3 million to £12.6 million in the year to December 31. Earnings rose from 19.7p to 21.7p and the final dividend is 10 per cent higher at 6.6p, taking the total to 9.9p. Trevor Finn, chief executive, said demand for luxury cars remained strong and many new products have long waiting lists. Contract hire remained a strong contributor and earnings from financial products would increase "as the sale of cars and payment packages become more closely aligned."

Unigate £14m shake-up

UNIGATE, the dairy products group, is to make a provision of up to £14 million in the first half to cover the cost of streamlining its British margarines and spreads operations. The action follows a review in the wake of the acquisition of the Vitalite and Golden Churn yellow fats business from Kraft in August 1996. The St Ivel Hemyock factory in Devon is to be closed within the next 18 months, although Unigate hopes to relocate the 160 workers to other sites within the group. The shares remained unchanged at 455p.

Greenalls restructures

GREENALLS Group is to take a £7.3 million exceptional charge against the cost of merging two pub and restaurant divisions, resulting in the loss of around 100 jobs, it was announced yesterday. The company is merging Premier House, which comprises 175 branded pub restaurants, with Greenalls Inns Retail, the 920-strong chain of managed houses. In addition, 245 managed houses will be transferred from Greenalls Inns Retail to Inn Partnership, the group's franchised and tenanted pub operation. **Tempus, page 28**

Southern News up 40%

SOUTHERN NEWSPAPERS lifted pre-tax profit 40 per cent to £8.2 million from £5.8 million in the six months to December 28. The regional publishing and printing business was helped by an exceptional gain of £4.1 million, relating to a property disposal. James Sexton, chief executive, said Southern was looking to make further acquisitions. It bought 15 titles from United News & Media for £31.5 million in November. An interim dividend of 5p (4.5p) is due on April 1 from earnings, excluding exceptionals, of 17.07p (15.99p).

Wetherspoon advances

JD WETHERSPOON, the public house group, expects to raise capital spending in the second half of the year to July 1997. Over the full year, the figure is likely to be about £52 million. The company, which opened 18 pubs in the six months to the end of January, expects to open a further 22 in the second half, bringing its total to 186. Interim figures for the six months to January 1997 show a 46 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.1 million on sales 44 per cent ahead at £65 million. The interim dividend rises from 3.1p to 3.4p a share.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.14	1.98
Austria Sch	20.26	18.76
Belgium Fr	59.44	55.14
Canada $	2.311	2.151
Cyprus Cyp£	0.851	0.796
Denmark Kr	11.02	10.22
Finland Mkk	8.77	8.12
France Fr	9.65	9.00
Germany Dm	2.89	2.68
Greece Dr	448	422
Hong Kong $	13.13	12.13
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.71	5.06
Italy Lira	2867	2692
Japan Yen	210.50	194.50
Malta	0.657	0.602
Netherlds Gld	3.229	2.999
New Zealand $	2.45	2.23
Norway Kr	11.62	10.82
Portugal Esc	286.00	267.50
S Africa Rd	7.80	7.00
Spain Pta	243.50	228.50
Sweden Kr	12.89	12.09
Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.33
Turkey Lira	209000	195000
USA $	1.712	1.582

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates at close of trading yesterday.

Recommended Offer
by
Coopers & Lybrand Corporate Finance
on behalf of
PCB Investments plc
a company established by
Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Equity Fund III, L.P.
to acquire the whole of the issued share capital of Forward Group PLC

Coopers & Lybrand Corporate Finance ('Coopers & Lybrand') announces on behalf of PCB Investments plc ('PCB Investments') that, by means of a formal offer document dated 4 March 1997 ('the Offer Document') and this advertisement, Coopers & Lybrand has made a recommended offer ('the Offer') on behalf of PCB Investments to acquire the whole of the issued and to be issued share capital of Forward Group PLC ('Forward'). Terms defined in the Offer Document have the same meanings in this advertisement.

The Offer is made on the following basis:
for each Forward Share 230p in cash
and so in proportion for any other number of Forward Shares held.

The Offer values each Forward share at 230p and Forward's fully diluted ordinary share capital at approximately £129 million.

Forward Shareholders (other than certain overseas shareholders) who validly accept the Offer are entitled to elect to receive Loan Notes in lieu of all or part of the cash consideration to which they would otherwise have been entitled under the basic terms of the Offer on the basis of £1 nominal of Loan Notes for every £1 of cash consideration receivable under the Offer. The Loan Notes will be transferrable but no application will be made for them to be listed or dealt in on any stock exchange or any other trading facility.

The full terms and conditions of the Offer and the Loan Note Alternative (including details of how the Offer may be accepted) are set out in the Offer Document and the Form of Acceptance.

The Offer has, by means of this advertisement, been extended to all persons to whom the Offer Document may not be despatched or who hold, or who are entitled to have allotted or issued to them, Forward Shares. Such persons are informed that copies of the Offer Document and Form of Acceptance are available for collection during normal business hours from Lloyds Bank Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA.

The Offer, which has been made by means of the Offer Document and this advertisement and the Loan Note Alternative, will each be open for acceptance until 3.00pm on 25 March 1997 (or, in each case, such later time(s) and/or date(s) as PCB Investments, subject to the rules of the Code, may decide).

The directors of Forward, who have been so advised by Price Waterhouse Corporate Finance ('Price Waterhouse') have stated that they consider the terms of the Offer to be fair and reasonable and have unanimously recommended all Forward Shareholders to accept the Offer as they have irrevocably undertaken to do in respect of their holdings of Forward Shares.

The Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland and accordingly the Offer Document, the Form of Acceptance and the Listing Particulars are not being and must not be, mailed or otherwise distributed or sent in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland.

The Loan Notes to be issued pursuant to the Offer have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1993, as amended, or under any of the relevant securities laws of any state or district of the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland. Accordingly, unless an exception under such Act or other laws is available, the Loan Notes may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in or into the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland or to or for the account or benefit of any USA, Canadian, Australian or Irish person.

This advertisement is not being published or otherwise distributed or sent to, into or from the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland and persons reading this advertisement (including custodians, trustees and nominees) must not distribute or send this advertisement, the Offer Document or the Form of Acceptance in, into or from the USA, Canada, Australia or the Republic of Ireland nor use the USA, Canadian, Australian or Irish mails or any similar means for any purpose, directly or indirectly, in connection with the Offer and doing so will invalidate any related purported acceptance of the Offer.

This advertisement is published on behalf of PCB Investments and has been approved by Coopers & Lybrand. Coopers & Lybrand, which is authorised to carry on Investment Business by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, is acting for Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Equity Fund III, L.P. and PCB Investments and no-one else in connection with the Offer and will not be responsible to anyone other than PCB Investments and Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst Equity Fund III, L.P. for providing the protections afforded to customers of Coopers & Lybrand or for providing advice in relation to the Offer.

Price Waterhouse, which is authorised to carry on Investment Business by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, is acting for Forward and no-one else in connection with the Offer and will not be responsible to anyone other than Forward for providing the protections afforded to customers of Price Waterhouse, or for providing advice in relation to the Offer.

The directors of PCB Investments accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement and, to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

5 March 1997

De Beers in talks with Russians

By Jon Ashworth

FRESH hope of a renewed diamond deal with Russia emerged yesterday when De Beers, the South African diamond group, said it had held "constructive" talks with the Russian diamond authorities over a long-standing diamond supply contract.

Russia pulled out of De Beers' Central Selling Organisation (CSO) on January 1, threatening to flood Western markets with cheap gems.

Record sales by the CSO, which controls about 75 per cent of the rough diamond market, helped to lift total combined earnings at De Beers to $1.34 billion ($986 million) in 1996. Earnings per share rose to 354 US cents (259 cents). The group increased its dividend by 10.5 per cent to 102.7 cents a share.

Sales of rough diamonds by the CSO were 7 per cent higher in 1996, at $4.83 billion ($4.53 billion). Second-half sales were affected by the continued "leakage" of Russian gems.

ADT rejects improved bid terms

From Richard Thomson
in New York

ADT, the world's largest home security and car auctions group, has rejected an improved takeover offer from Western Resources, its largest shareholder.

Western, a utility company based in Kansas, raised the cash element of its bid by one-third to $10 from $7.5 per share, although the total value of its offer remained broadly unchanged at $22.5 a share, worth a total of $3.5 billion.

ADT said the offer remained inadequate and that there was no good strategic fit with Western, which plans to sell ADT's car auction business, worth about $450 million, if it wins its bid. Michael Ashcroft, ADT chairman, said: "We understand why a slow growth Kansas utility thinks it would benefit from buying a high growth international electronic security services company but fail to see any compelling reason why ADT shareholders would benefit from such an alliance."

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

Dramtop Ltd
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that K.P. Barry, FCA of Messrs Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF and A.D. Dick of Buckler Phillips Traynor, 1 Winkley Court, Chapel Street, Preston, Lancs PR1 8BU both Licensed Insolvency Practitioners, were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above Company by the members and creditors on 24th February 1997, all debts and claims should be sent to us at the above address.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to us. No further public advertisment of invitation to prove debts will be given.

DATED THIS 24th February 1997

K.P.Barry, FCA and A.D.Dick, Joint Liquidators

MAXWELD ENGINEERING LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP & IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, J J Schapira, ACA a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Messrs Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors on 27th February 1997. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement of invitation to prove debts will be given.

DATED THIS 27th February 1997

J J Schapira, ACA, Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986
RELAY COMMUNICATIONS (SALISBURY LIMITED)
(In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 26th February 1997.

M.R.DORRINGTON, Liquidator

MAXWELD ENGINEERING LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP & IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 10th April 1997, to send their full forenames and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, J J Schapira, ACA, of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

DATED THIS 27th February 1997

J J SCHAPIRA, Liquidator

In the Matter of FORTLANDS LIMITED
and
In the Matter of the Companies Act, section 175

The above-named Company has approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase. The amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £93,500 and the date of the resolution for payment out of capital was 28 February 1997. The Statutory Declaration of the Sole Director and the Auditors' report required by section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office. Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the High Court under section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an Order prohibiting the payment.

P R Turner, Sole Director
28 February 1997
Registered Office
Britannic House
Regent Street
Barnsley, S70 2EQ

YOURS & MINE LIMITED
REGISTERED NO 1r2003

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 46(1)(a) of the Insolvency Act, 1986 that Panos Eliades of Panos Eliades, Franklin & Co, 6 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1A 2LP, was appointed Administrative Receiver of the above-named Company on 21st February, 1997 by Finlaw Fifty-Seven Limited under the powers contained in a Debenture dated 18th February, 1997 whereby a fixed and floating charge was created over the whole of the assets of the Company.

P. ELIADES
ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
21st February, 1997

ISM TRADING (UK) LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester M4 1QD on Wednesday 12th March 1997 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2)(a) of the said Act, Mr Peter Lomas of Poppleton and Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.

DATED THIS 27TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 1997
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
MTC MESQUITA, Director

Cloudgrove Limited
t/a Maddox Fashions

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor) London, W2 6LF, on 14th March 1997 at 11.00 for the purposes provided in Section 98 et seq. It is not intended to propose any resolutions at the meeting concerning Liquidators remuneration, however the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 553, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.

Dated this 27th February 1997
[illegible] Wilson, Director

To Mr Chris Oputah of 20 Kenwyn Road, London SW4

Take notice that an action has been commenced against you in the High Court of Justice, Queens Bench Division 1997 H No 1115 by the Halifax Building Society in which the plaintiff's seeks to perfect their security or in default the return of their advance.

And that it has been ordered that service of the writ in the said action on you be effected by this advertisement.

And further take notice that you must be within 14 days from the publication of this advertisement inclusive of the day of such publication, acknowledge service of the said writ of summons by completing a prescribed form of acknowledgement of service which may be obtained on request from the solicitors whose name and address appear below, otherwise judgement may be entered against you.

Reynolds Porter Chamberlain
Chichester House
278-282 High Holborn
London, WC1V 7HA
Tel: 0171 242 2877
Ref: SXB CJ MAN28-2

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171 680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

هدية من الاهرام

☐ Dilemma for our mutual friend ☐ A way forward for one British grocer ☐ Gas gets more competitive

Too much Xtra at the Halifax

☐ THE *Duchess of Windsor* was wrong. It is perfectly possible to be too rich or too thin. No one could accuse the Halifax, *the* country's biggest building society, of being too thin. But it does seem to be suffering an *embarrassment of riches.*

The Bank of England lays down guidelines on how much banks must have put away for a rainy day. This, simply, is expressed as the relationship between assets, and what would be left in the *coffers once all debts* were paid off and all loans called in. It is designed to prevent reputable banks — such as Barings, say — going bust.

Don't be so cynical. The Halifax's balance sheet shows total assets adjusted for the relative risk they carry of almost £50 billion. Tier 1 capital, the cash potentially left over, stands at £6.9 billion, or 14 per cent of that total, twice the figure regarded as necessary by the Bank. So the Halifax's return on capital is running at 12 to 13 per cent, about half that of those banks among whose number it will be counted after conversion.

Thus to earn the returns the market expects, the Halifax must divest itself of £3 billion. This *may seem weirdly reminiscent* of those 1980s dinner party conversations about how vital it was to have the biggest mortgage you could possibly afford, but it is the way banking works.

Halifax could spend the money on an acquisition, which explains the queue of hopeful merchant bankers now forming outside its head offices. But prices for other societies and life insurers have run out of control. Hence the talk about "repatriating" the cash to members.

The trouble here is that any *promise* of more goodies after flotation, in the form of special dividends or share buy-backs, is the last thing the company or the City needs. An 8.5 million-strong shareholder list all refusing to sell would be a nightmare to administer, while the lack of *new* equity being issued *means* institutions would be starved of stock. Great news for members, *though, as this will force the* price higher in the after-market even before the buy-back or dividend arrives.

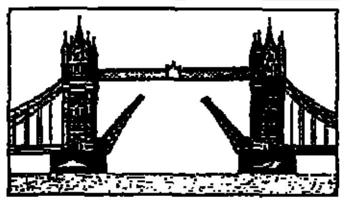
One must marvel at the topsy-turvy logic that forces a business to float in order to end up with more cash than it needs. The alternative might be to use the *money to buy market share, by* enhancing returns to savers and providing good rates to lenders.

The Halifax spent £600 million on just this last year, in the form of cash-backs and discounted mortgage rates. The excess cash *should* be good *for at* least another five years. The trouble is, the new *shareholders* would never stand for it. You have to be a mutual to get away with that sort of thing.

Littlewoods boxes clever

☐ THEY *will deny it*, but our grocers, despite being in one of the most profitable businesses on Earth, are all locked in the *British Box. We may not yet have* reached satiation in our desire for new supermarkets, but we are not far off it. Just as the ideal location for a pub is about three streets away from where you live, the ideal supermarket is a couple of miles away. Anything nearer is In Our Back Yard.

PENNINGTON



This means any attempt to build new superstores will be met by a stern response from John Gummer at the Department of the Environment, take months, nay years, and cost a bomb. But the City is *so* accustomed to profits growth that any suggestion of a mere slowdown, as we have seen this year, has the *analysts* reaching for their red pencils. This is why Tesco is trying to read the road signs in Czech and Hungarian, and Marks & Spencer is so keen on Australia and home shopping. They are all looking at financial services, heaven help them.

Now Littlewoods offers an *immediate* way *out of the British* Box — 135 shops, three quarters of them in prime high street locations, but for one buyer only alas. Ideal for medium-sized food stores selling high-margin prepared food, leaving the grotty *commodity stuff to the super*-stores on the edge of town. Exactly the market that Marks has pioneered, come to think of it, and available to Tesco or Asda at a very reasonable £500 million, or to Marks if it wants to head off the competition.

So goes the sales pitch. Think of your local Littlewoods, and you might balk at that prime *location description,* but estate agents have never kept a strict regard for truth. Whatever happens, this is the most exciting *shake-up in retail* for years, and it will either provide the Moores family with the cash for Freemans, the MMC willing, or for another round of fratricidal legal bickering. Just one doubt arises: this is the personal initiative of James Ross, the new chairman at Littlewoods out of Cable and Wireless. *The family has never* shown much patience with outsiders, and the plan might not survive him. An early viewing of the stores is recommended.

Picking cherries in the spring

☐ COMPETITION in household gas was meant to be as heavily stacked against the old British Gas as it was in the industrial market. Instead of cumbersome restrictions, however, the idea was that the former monopoly would be hogtied by *the long-term contracts it* had signed to buy gas at well above today's market price.

British Gas needed to maximise revenue in remaining monopoly areas as long as it could. So the only rule needed to promote rivals in pilot markets was to stop it charging prices below the national tariff unless there is full competition. Centrica, divorced from the rest of British Gas, has little future without customers and so is not much prepared to sit back and lose them. In the South West, competition is proving more vigorous than first thought. In the streetwise southern stockbroker belt, more powerful *competitors* such as Scottish Power can hope to make even bigger inroads. Hence Centrica's attempt to stem defections of bigger South West customers, claiming competition is now self-sustaining there.

As the Gas Consumers Council notes, Centrica is stoking up expectations elsewhere. Whatever Ofgas decides, the real message for those about to be buried under a blizzard of junk mail from its competitors is: you don't have to switch, because Centrica will cut prices as soon as it is allowed. If Centrica can exchange its bad contracts for its gas assets, *it should be able to* adjust its national tariff in the light of experience.

The result is not entirely welcome. When everyone picks cherries, poorer customers will have to pay more, as doubters have long predicted. That is an inevitable, if unpleasant side-effect of competition.

General Accident to lift payout 10% despite profit fall

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

GENERAL ACCIDENT announced plans to increase its dividend by more than 10 per cent yesterday and ruled out the acquisition of a UK life company, saying that it intends to concentrate instead on building up Provident Mutual.

The shares rose 10½p to 847½p despite a £15 million fall in full-year profits to £421 million. The results included a contribution of £18 million, net of reorganisation costs of £16 million, from Provident Mutual, the mutual life insurer bought by GA in January 1996.

Bob Scott, chief executive, said he wants to build up the group's life and pensions operations, and the goal is to increase the proportion of life earnings to a level that covers dividends every year. The proportion of dividend covered by net life earnings in 1996 was 44 per cent.

Mr Scott ruled out any major acquisitions in the drive to expand the business and said that he has no interest in *bidding for* Scottish Amicable, the mutual life insurer currently being *courted by Prudential*, AMP and Abbey National. He said: "At the present time there is nothing wrong with organic growth in the life division."

Overall, the contribution from life operations increased *37* per cent to £108 million. There will be a final dividend of 22.85p per share, making a total of 34.25p for the year, a *10.5* per cent increase. At the end of December the net asset per share was 675p, although Mr Scott said the stock's current net asset value is 734p.

The results are slightly better *than the City had expected* and GA will now be under pressure to return to shareholders some of its surplus capital, estimated at £1 billion.

Scott: ruled out acquisitions

Mr Scott said that GA has a "progressive dividend policy" and added: "As far as dividends are concerned, each year will be treated on its own merits."

Meanwhile, personal motor insurance rates look set to rise across the industry as GA, in common with other insurers, plans to increase premiums by more than 3 per cent from April 1. Mr Scott is likely to make further adjustments in July. He said GA achieved 2-3 per cent rises in rates last year, although some customers have deserted as a result.

The company's worldwide underwriting deficit for the full year increased from £130 million to £212 million. This rise was because of increased competition in the United Kingdom and weather-related losses in America. In total, weather losses were up from around £100 million in 1995 to £130 *million* in 1996.

Tempus, page 28

CRH to cut bid budget

From Eileen McCabe in Dublin

CRH, the building materials group *based in the Irish Republic, expects* to cut its Ir£418 million acquisition budget to between Ir£150 million and £200 million this year.

Don Godson, its chief executive, said: "We do expect a continuing flow of interesting development opportunities in all our regions, but not at the exceptional rate of 1996."

CRH reported a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to Ir£193 million for the year to December. Earnings rose 14 per cent to *Ir40.59p* a share. Mr Godson said the group's performance was satisfactory, despite the strength of the Irish pound.

CRH was able to take advantage of the continuing construction boom in Ireland to increase turnover to Ir£320 million from Ir£278 million.

An Ir7.12p final makes a total dividend of Ir10.2p, up 12 per cent, due on May 12.

Kerry Group on prowl

From Eileen McCabe in Dublin

KERRY GROUP, the food company *based in the Irish Republic, is* actively seeking new opportunities to complement its existing operations in Europe and America after the completion of the restructuring of its core businesses.

Yesterday the company reported a 19 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to Ir£51.2 million on sales of Ir£1.23 billion.

Earnings per share were up 16 per cent to Ir26.9p. The company's food *ingredients division recorded a 14 per* cent increase in sales to Ir£706 million, while sales at its consumer foods business grew to Ir£473 million, from Ir£445 million.

However, turnover in the agribusiness sector *slipped* more than 7 per cent to Ir£53 million.

There is a final dividend of Ir2.56p a share, lifting the total dividend 15 per cent to Ir3.83p, payable on May 26.

Ladbroke closing property division

By Alasdair Murray

LADBROKE, the hotels and betting company, is closing its property division at a cost of £52 million, it was announced yesterday.

The latest charge will increase, to more than £100 *million, the net exceptional* charges that will be included in the company's annual results, due tomorrow.

Yesterday the company completed the sale of ten commercial and residential properties to Minerva for £25 million, and sold an office block in Boston to HN Gorin for $23 million. Ladbroke expects to complete the sale of another US property for $13 million later this week.

The charge will be made to cover the cost of *losses on* disposals and a provision to write-down the value of its *remaining* property assets.

Other charges, previously announced, include the cost of settling a rent dispute at the Paris Hilton and the resolution of the legal battle with Sainsbury's over the sale of Texas Homecare in 1994.

The company added that it would also be making a non-operating exceptional charge of £17.6 million to cover losses on disposals of other investment *properties* sold in 1996.

Analysts said that although the closure of the property division had removed an element of *uncertainty* the write-off was larger than expected. Ladbroke shares fell 2p, to 227p.

Ladbroke said that the book value of the remaining property portfolio is £70 million.

Analysts are expecting Ladbroke to announce a 30 per cent rise in profits, excluding tax and exceptionals, to around £160 million.

GrandMet expects high spirits

By Alasdair Murray

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the drinks company, said yesterday that it expected an increase in first-half profits, with a rise in spirits volumes offsetting the adverse impact of the strong pound.

George Bull, the chairman, told the company's annual meeting that trading in the first four months of the year was in line with expectations.

The company said that Pillsbury, the food subsidiary, has shown strong organic *profit* growth with an improved sales mix and margins, while Burger King has continued to outperform its US *competitors with like-for*-like sales growth.

The company also said that the prospect of a price war with McDonald's would not slow the company's progress in the US. GrandMet shares rose 6½p. *to 460p.*

Hotel group finds room for expansion

Thistle stalks growth

By Alasdair Murray

THISTLE HOTELS, Britain's second largest hotel group, is aiming to add 2,000 rooms to *its hotel* portfolio in the next few years as it concentrates on organic growth.

The company, which has 13,250 rooms at *100 sites*, also plans to rebrand about 20 hotels under the Thistle name. *Capital* expenditure will rise from the £52 million of 1996 to £55 million this year.

Thistle, which is 46 per cent owned by New Zealand-based Brierley Investements, unveiled a 73 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, excluding exceptional items, to £60 million. Exceptional charges of £88 million resulted from the revaluation of the estate. Overall *turnover increased* 8.5 per cent to £290 million.

Thistle shares fell 8p to 198p, with analysts disappointed that the results were not as strong as those of the company's rivals. There was also concern *that the rising pound* could hit overseas bookings. Thistle, formerly known as Mount Charlotte Group, floated in October, priced at 170p.

Gearing fell to 31 per cent last year after the group used flotation proceeds of £250 million to *reduce debt to* £360 million.

Overall occupancy levels rose from 65.7 to 66.7 per cent despite closures for refurbishment. Room rates rose 13.8 per cent as the company shifted *towards the commercial* market, which accounts for 46.5 per cent of total business.

Robert Peel, chief executive, said early trading in 1997 was well ahead of last year's. A maiden final dividend of 2p is payable *on May 23.*

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares squeezed higher as the signs stay positive

GROWING optimism about the outlook for interest rates and another positive performance on Wall Street enabled investors to squeeze prices sharply higher to close at another high.

After hitting a best 4,359.1, the FT-SE 100 index finished just a shade lower with a rise of 50.6 at 4,357.7. Prices were marked higher at the outset after a 41-point leap in the Dow Jones industrial average overnight. Another opening rise in the Dow yesterday provided further impetus.

But with just 835 million shares having changed hands by the close of business, it was apparent that stock shortages had combined with selective demand for the leaders to squeeze the market higher.

Brokers say there is unlikely to be a rise in interest rates ahead of the election. This view was underpinned by the short end of the gilt market, where prices rose ahead of today's monthly economic meeting. It has also been reinforced by the subdued money supply and a drop in the purchasing managers' index. The market remains cautious ahead of Friday's US employment numbers.

BTR was the best performing stock in the top 100 with with a rise of 13p at 255½p. Brokers were excited by news of the link-up between its Brook Hansen electrical drives subsidiary and Danfoss Drives, part of Danfoss Group, Denmark's largest industrial conglomerate. This creates a business with turnover of more than £1 billion. Brokers say there is still plenty of scope for improvement in the BTR share price.

There was also plenty for shareholders to cheer about at **Grand Metropolitan** as the price rose 6½p to 460p on the back of an upbeat trading statement. The group played down reports that its Burger King chain was about to plunge into a price war after hefty price cuts by McDonald's in the US. George Bull, chairman, told the annual meeting that the price cuts would only apply to combination meals. All three main divisions at **GrandMet** were trading well and the group expected first-half profits to be ahead of last year.

A disappointing second half trading statement left **MFI Furniture** 40½p down at a low for the past year of 156½p. The group saw a slowdown in like-for-like sales to 7.1 per cent over 16 weeks, including the important winter sales, and compares with a 13.5 per cent increase in the first six months of the financial year.

The shock waves from MFI's statement and the news that Littlewoods, the privately owned store chain, had put stores up for sale, hit other retailers in the sector including **Carpetright**, down 20½p at 604p, **DFS**, 14½p off at 595p, **Kingfisher**, 9p lower at 681½p, **Argos**, 5½p down at 687p, and **Marks & Spencer**, 9½p cheaper at 488p.

A bid approach from Wiggins Group lifted **Tomorrows Leisure** 3p to 9¼p. Wiggins is offering one of its own shares for every share in Tomorrows Leisure, valuing the deal at £16 million. **Wiggins**, ¼p off at 10p, already holds 25 per cent of the company.

Mackie International plunged 52½p to 131p after bid talks, announced last week, were terminated.

The market gave a lukewarm reception to maiden figures from **Thistle Hotels**. Profits came in at £60 million but it plunged into the red with a loss of £27.6 million after exceptional items. The shares ended the day 8p lower at 198p.

By contrast, **Millennium & Copthorne** rose another 12p to 395p as brokers continued to ponder on Monday's impressive profit numbers.

Smith & Nephew was the worst performer among the top 100 shares, losing 6¾p, or 3.5 per cent, at 184¼p after a flat set of profits.

A better than expected payout for shareholders enabled General Accident to shrug off the downturn in profits to finish with a rise of 11p at 848p. **Commercial Union**, the subject of intense bid speculation on Monday, was steady at 721p. It weighed in with lower profits last week along with **Guardian Royal Exchange**, 1½p firmer at 284p.

Standard Chartered continued to benefit from recent buy recommendations with the price adding 21½p at 887½p on turnover of 2.1 million shares. Investors are said to be still switching out of **HSBC**, which later rallied 20p to £15.72½.

Canadian Pizza slipped 1½p to 95p after confirming it was on the look-out for an acquisition. The group, whose chairman is Barry O'Connell and managing director Peter Woodall, weighed in with a 50 per cent leap in pre-tax profits last year to £2.1 million.

BTP rose 10p to 283½p on talk of a "buy" recommendation from Merrill Lynch, the broker. **David S Smith** was another firm market, adding 15½p at 261½p after a visit by institutional investors.

Shares of market high-flyer **British Biotech** came under pressure, losing 4p to 251p ahead of figures today. **GKN**, also reporting this week, rose 14p to 950p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** The improving outlook for interest rates was clearly reflected in the bond market where shorter-dated issues outperformed the longer end.

The March series of the long gilt rose £⅛ to £112⅝ as the number of contracts completed totalled just 12,000 contract were completed, while 37,000 were recorded in the June series.

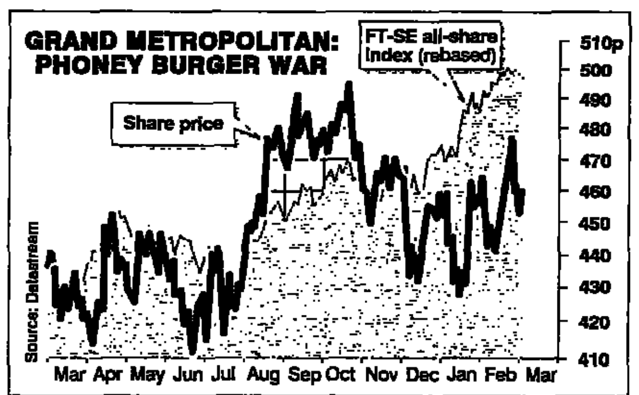
Longer-dated issues closed below their best of the day, reflecting a poor response by US Treasury bonds to comments made by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Fed, to Congress.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 eased a tick to £105 29/32, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks firmer at £103 13/16.

NEW YORK: Shares were steady as investors turned to technology, oil and bank stocks, while merger activity kept the transport sector higher. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 5.38 points higher at 6,924.30.

Barry O'Connell, left, and Peter Woodall, of Canadian Pizza, down 1½p after 50 per cent higher profits and acquisition talk

Note the heavy turnover on Dana Petroleum, with the price firming ¼p to 20¾p as almost seven million shares changed hands. It is now just 1¼p shy of its high for the year. Brokers say that there is scope for improvement. The group is said to have been on the lookout for acquisitions. An announcement may be due.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	6924.30 (+5.38)
S&P Composite	797.26 (+1.95)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	18564.78 (+135.65)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	13450.08 (-57.20)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	753.40 (+17.14)

Sydney:

AO	2432.1 (+10.9)

Frankfurt:

DAX	3320.66 (+56.80)

Singapore:

Straits	2189.44 (-6.90)

Brussels:

General	12013.36 (+73.06)

Paris:

CAC-40	2651.69 (+51.43)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	942.70 (+10.90)

London:

FT 30	2884.6 (+38.8)
FT 100	4357.7 (+50.6)
FTSE Mid 250	4666.6 (+12.1)
FTSE 350	2154.4 (+20.9)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2154.26 (+28.30)
FT All-Share	2126.38 (+19.11)
FT Non Financials	2173.94 (+17.74)
FT Fixed Interest	119.77 (+0.13)
FT Govt Secs	96.01 (+0.17)
Bargains	52649
SEAQ Volume	835.9m
US$	1.6170 (-0.0027)
German Mark	2.7643 (+0.0218)
Exchange Index	98.5 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4131
£:SDR	1.1715
RPI	154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Anglo-Welsh	111½		...
Aortech	136½		...
C&B Publishing	175		...
Calldore Warrants	1		...
Centrica (75½)	64	+	¼
Core Group	313½	+	3½
Energy Group (525)	532½	+	6
Howle	31	−	½
Infobank Intl	149	+	½
Nord Anglo Eductn	167½	−	2½
PSD (A/L)	286½	+	1½
Screen	5½	+	1¼
TR Euro Gwth Wrts	57½		...
Tea Plantations Inv	102		...
Technoplast	95½	−	11
VFG	41½		...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Pace Micro	113½p (+19p)
Albion	65p (+10p)
Gerrard	357½p (+19p)
BTR	255½p (+13p)
Sherwood Int	240p (+11p)
Trinity Holdings	327½p (+14p)
MMT Comp	565p (+24p)
BTP	283½p (+10p)
Wolseley	488p (+15½p)
Millennium & Cop	395p (+12p)
Reckitt Colman	815p (+23½p)
Caird Group	661½p (+19p)
RMC Group	985p (+26p)
Bristol	505p (+13p)
Logica	982½p (+25p)
Close Bros	397½p (+10p)
Church	530p (+11½p)
Ocean Group	493½p (+10p)
JBA Holdings	775p (+15p)
British Airways	653p (+12p)
United News	725p (+18p)
Royal & Sun Al	507p (+12½p)

FALLS:

Waste Mgmt Int	223p (-13p)
Airsprung	252½p (-11p)
Norbain	231½p (-10p)
Dudley Jenkins	232½p (-10p)
Croda	301p (-11p)
Carpetright	604p (-20½p)
Eurotherm	468p (-9p)
Cable Wireless	494p (-8½p)
Vendome	519½p (-8p)
EMAP	739p (-10½p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

A flat finish at MFI

MFI's winter sale was as dull as a knock-down kitchen unit and the furniture retailer's bosses are at a loss to explain why. After a buoyant first six months of the financial year, the rate of growth halved with the increase in turnover tailing off to 7.3 per cent in the crucial sale period. Predictably, the stock market treated the result as disastrous, knocking MFI shares, as well as DFS and Kingfisher, owner of B&Q.

This is hardly the making of a disaster: sales growth of more than 4 per cent, excluding inflation, should be enough for any volume retailer. The calamity is in relation to raised expectations. Exaggerated forecasts of a boom in housing transactions led analysts to expect that MFI's good first half would lead to a bumper year. In hindsight, the question is not what happened to MFI's lost winter sales but, rather, why the early summer surge?

The uncharitable view is that MFI's duff marketing allowed rivals to steal its sales. But the company insists that its new format stores secured double-digit gains while the old-style outlets suffered a fall in turnover as did sales of Hygena, its mass market product. Clearly, the volume end of the business is still in the doldrums.

Could it be that the market has simply changed? British retailers have waited too long for a housing-led recovery, failing to recognise that it has probably been and gone. Last summer's brief surge was probably a catch-up of purchases delayed by recession, rather than the harbinger of a boom. A more canny British consumer is reluctant to plough money into houses. Retailers like MFI will just have to get used to modest sales growth.

Smith & Nephew

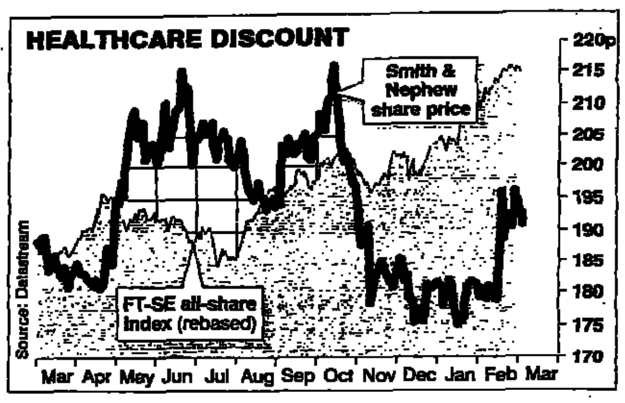
FEW European healthcare companies have as large a share of the American market as Smith & Nephew. After years of hustling it has built up enviable marketing and distribution systems; more than 40 per cent of Smith & Nephew's revenue comes from the US and hopes are high that new products, notably Dermagraft, its bio-engineered skin, will keep the momentum going.

But America is a brutally competitive market and Smith & Nephew is starting to feel the heat. Raising prices is unthinkable; rather, the pressure is downwards and, last year, it suffered a 3 per cent reduction.

Health maintenance organisations, the Wal-Marts of the industry, are the culprits. Their ability to command deep discounts grows, as does their size.

Smith & Nephew knows that it will have to bow to the HMOs again this year, but believes the worst will be over by 1998. That sounds optimistic. Healthcare budgets have only one way to go and the pain may last longer than the company's most pessimistic scenario.

The longer-term outlook is positive. Dermagraft is unique and has strong sales potential. A bio-engineered cartilage, the next product on the drawing-board, looks equally promising. But unless the HMOs cease demanding blood from their suppliers, the shares may struggle to track the market.



General Accident

AN OUTBREAK of common sense is affecting the UK's composite insurers. Instead of the usual scrap for market share, they have has been increasing their premium rates selectively in order to protect underwriting margins. As a result, some have lost customers who chase the lowest rates, particularly in the fierce battleground of motor insurance. General Accident indicated yesterday that it is prepared to raise rates further.

Unlike some of the weaker entrants in the direct market, composites can afford the luxury of putting up rates and being choosy about the people they do business with. GA now has a steady stream of income from its life and pensions business via Provident Mutual, which provides a useful buttress during lean underwriting periods.

GA picked up Provident Mutual for a song, and after just a year it is already showing good returns. Scottish Amicable's buyer is unlikely to get such a good deal. Having acquired its own mutual, GA can focus on its overseas interests while rivals fight over the remaining UK life companies.

Greenalls

TO RUN one's own business may be a daydream for many, but for 245 publicans at Greenalls, self-employment has become the only option. They are being offered a choice between the sack or the opportunity to invest a £10,000 redundancy cheque in the pub they currently manage for the big corporation.

They will become franchisees, a dressed-up form of tenanted pub agreement with marketing support from the landlord. Also, Greenalls insists that it will be gentler to its new entrepreneurs than another well-known pub owner that squeezed its tenants till the pips squeaked.

Greenalls will probably get plenty of volunteer franchisees from its managers — Enterprise Inns secured about a two thirds take-up in a similar recent exercise. The whole project, expected to cost £7.3 million, will generate savings of only £3.5 million per year.

However, short-term savings are not the point. Greenalls is struggling to deal with a problem of its own making. Huge investment in themed pubs and pub restaurants has marginalised the traditional boozers. These consume on average seven barrels a week, compared with 11 to 12 at the new establishments.

Having established that they do not warrant big investment, these pubs are probably set for gentle decline. By franchising them, Greenalls can cut its investment in management time and working capital but retain a reliable cashflow in the form of rents.

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COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	917 BID	May	992 SLR
May	930 SLR	Jul	1002 SLR
Jul	942 SLR	Sep	unq
Sep	958 SLR	Dec	1030 BID
Dec	unq		
Mar	981 SLR		Volume: 9652

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1705 SLR	Nov	1670-1660
May	unq	Jan	1645-1630
Jul	1700 BID	Mar	unq
Sep	unq		Volume: 6612

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	302.0-01.1
Spot: 309.5		Mar	303.0-00.6
May	307.5-07.0	May	303.0-97.6
Aug	306.5-06.1	Jul	unq
Oct	302.5-02.1		Volume: 978

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 3

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	83.73	144.91	100.80
(+/-)	+0.86	+0.96	-1.54
Eng/Wales:	83.80	146.06	100.22
(+/-)	+0.76	+1.50	-1.71
(%)	-5.0	-1.0	-1.0
Scotland:	81.09	142.14	105.76
(+/-)	+3.56	+1.10	-0.56
(%)	-12.0	-88.0	+15.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.20	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Apr)	19.20	+0.35
Brent 15 day (May)	18.90	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.35	+0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	20.15	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	203 (n/c)	207 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	163 (+3)	164 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	84 (n/c)	190 (n/c)
Naphtha	188 (-3)	190 (-3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	163.50-63.75	Jun	166.75-67.00
Apr	164.75-65.00	Jul	168.00-68.25
May	166.00-66.25		Vol: 17105

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	19.19-19.20	Jul	18.53 BID
May	18.96-18.97	Aug	18.42 BID
Jun	18.70 BID		Vol: 38770

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	97.00
May	99.80
Jul	102.10
Sep	93.15
Nov	95.15
Volume: 740	

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	91.00
May	92.00
Sep	91.50
Nov	93.50
Jan	95.50
Volume: 30	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	64.4	65.0
May	68.5	70.0
Jun	unq	75.0
		Volume: 150

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Apr 80.25-80.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1440	1400	1415
Apr 97	1490	1480	1490
May 97	1465	1455	1465
Jul 97	1260	1255	1260
Vol: 315 lots		Open Interest: 2843	

Index 1417 -13

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2479.0-2481.0	2416.0-2417.0	1113450
Lead ($/tonne)	721.00-722.00	703.50-704.00	483075
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1246.0-1247.0	1253.5-1254.0	511125
Tin ($/tonne)	5815.0-5825.0	5875.0-5880.0	25945
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1666.0-1667.0	1692.0-1693.0	2269700
Nickel ($/tonne)	8125.0-8130.0	8210.0-8215.0	89974

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	420	25½	33½	40½	7	17½	22
(*436)	460	6½	14	22½	28	40	44½
ASDA	110	6	9	10½	3	5½	8
(*111½)	120	2	4½	6½	9½	11	12½
Boots	650	37	50½	56½	6½	19½	24
(*677½)	700	9½	22½	31	29	43½	49½
Br Airways	600	59	68½	77½	3	14	17½
(*652½)	650	24	37½	48	17	30½	39
BP	650	46½	61	69½	6	16½	23½
(*683)	700	17	32½	43	25½	38	46
Br Steel	140	15	15	20	1	5	7
(*155)	160	3½	8	10	9½	16½	18½
C & W	460	41	52½	60½	6	15½	20½
(*494)	500	16	30	38½	19½	32	39
CU	700	39	61½	76½	30½	50½	70
(*722)	750	19½	44	55½	62	79½	99
ICI	700	53½	73	82	3½	11½	19
(*746½)	750	20	41½	52	18	30	39
Land Sec	750	51	62½	70½	2	14	16½
(*795)	800	14½	30	42	17	37	41½
M & S	460	34	42½	46½	4½	12	13½
(*488)	500	9	19½	25½	19	30½	33
Nat West	700	50½	72½	80	7½	19	30½
(*735½)	750	19½	43½	53	26½	40	53½
Safeway plc	360	22	30	36	6	15	20½
(*373)	390	5	15½	22	27½	31½	37
Sainsbury	300	21½	26½	31	4½	12	14½
(*314½)	330	6½	11½	17	18½	28½	31
Shell	1050	32	43½	59	33½	47½	56½
(*1058)	1100	11	23½	37½	69½	78½	86½
Smkl Bch	900	43½	68	84½	22	30½	40½
(*913½)	950	20	44	59½	49½	65	74½
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1800	100	153	167½	38½	63½	82
(*1872½)	1900	47	103	130	87	112	129½
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
BAT Ind	500	52½	59	69½	8½	19	26
(*549½)	550	20	35½	40	31½	41½	53
Vodafone	280	23½	32½	39	5	12½	16½
(*296)	300	12	22	29	13½	21½	26
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	420	47½	56	61	4	8½	12
(*459)	460	20½	30½	37½	16	24½	27½
Ladbroke	220	13	19	23	8	10½	14
(*227)	240	5½	10	14½	19½	22	25
Utd Bisc	240	10½	17½	22½	13½	16½	21½
(*241½)	260	4	10½	15	27½	30	34

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	46	56	61	1½	9	12½
(*540½)	550	13½	25	31½	18	29½	33
Thames W	650	48	68	70½	10	30½	35
(*687½)	700	19½	41½	44	29	56½	58½
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BTR	240	21	26	31	8	10½	14½
(*255)	260	10½	16	21	18	21	24½
Br Aero	1300	65½	99	119	37	54½	66
(*1319½)	1350	42	73	93	64	80	90½
Br Telcm	420	26½	34½	39	9	20½	24½
(*432½)	460	8	17	19½	31	46½	49
Cadbury	500	22	35	40½	18	25½	28½
(*510)	550	5½	16	21½	54½	58	60
Guinness	460	15½	25½	30½	21½	27	29
(*461½)	500	5	12	16	51½	54½	55½
GEC	360	33½	40	44	5	11½	15
(*383½)	390	15	23	27½	16½	20	29½
Hanson	260	25	30½	33½	6½	7½	10½
(*276½)	280	13	19	22½	14½	16	19½
LASMO	240	17	25	28½	9½	12	15
(*244)	260	9½	16	20	21	23½	26
LucasVarity	200	14½	20½	24	8	10	14
(*206)	220	6	12	15	18½	21½	25½
Pilkingtn	140	10	14	—	4	9½	—
(*144½)	160	2	6	—	16½	21½	—
Prudential	550	31	45	54	19	27½	34½
(*568½)	600	10½	23	32	50	56½	62
Redland	330	36½	40	47	4	13	18½
(*358)	360	17½	23	31½	22	27½	33½
R-Royce	220	24	29½	33½	7	11	13
(*236)	240	12½	19½	21	16	20½	22½
Tesco	330	21	27½	33	11	15½	19
(*341½)	360	7	14½	20	28½	32½	36
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4354)

	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500
Calls						
Mar	112½	72	36½	12½	6	1
Apr	142	106½	74½	50	31½	17½
May	165	132	100½	77½	55	40
Jun	197	166	132	116	91½	62
Dec	—	273	—	218	—	169½
Puts						
Mar	16	27	47	76	115	163
Apr	45	61	80	106½	139½	174
May	64	81½	101	128	156	191
Jun	86	104½	121½	147	173½	204½
Dec	—	161	—	207	—	257

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Abby Nat	750	22	47	57	27	42½	51
(*760)	800	5½	27	37	64	74	81
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1100	39½	74½	90	23½	39	56½
(*1111)	1150	18	50	66½	51	65½	82½
Natl Pwr	450	51	—	—	3	—	—
(*496)	500	16½	35½	34½	17	36½	40
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo W	1050	30	55½	73½	38½	53	65½
(*1055½)	1100	11½	34½	53	71½	83½	95
HSBC	1500	88	132½	160	28	61	85½
(*1574)	1600	37½	83	110	79½	111½	135
Reuter	650	26	47½	57	22	33	39½
(*659)	700	8½	27	36	55	63	68½
Royal & Sun	500	17	31	40	19	29	34½
(*507)	550	4	13½	21	58	63	66½
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Blue Circ	390	29½	36	41½	12	16½	22
(*410)	420	12½	21	27	28	32	37½
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Kingfishr	650	44	56	65½	15½	25	30½
(*681½)	700	16½	31	41	42½	49½	56
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**		**Mar**	**Jun**	
Br Gas	220	18	22½	—	1	10½	—
(*236½)	240	4½	12	—	7½	20½	—
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Dixons	500	38	55	63½	1	11½	20½
(*535½)	550	7	26	36	19	32½	43
EMI Group	1150	53	94	116½	4½	33	52
(*1193)	1200	23½	67	89½	24½	54	74
Tarmac	100	6	9	12	1	5½	5½
(*104)	110	1½	4½	7½	6½	11	11½
Hillsdwn	190	15½	16½	19	0	5	6
(*196)	200	3½	7	8½	7	16½	17
Lonrho	140	9	14½	17½	1½	5	7½
(*147½)	160	0½	5	9	13	16	16½
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	280	8½	19½	24	3½	10½	17
(*284½)	300	1	10½	14½	16	21½	29
Lloyds TSB	500	20½	41½	52	3½	17	24½
(*516)	550	1	18½	28½	34½	44½	51½
Scot Pwr	360	9½	23	28½	4½	13½	21
(*363½)	390	0½	10	15	26½	30½	39½
Unilever	1500	72½	94½	119½	6	29	43
(*1564½)	1600	12	43	71	45½	79½	93

March 4, 1997 Tot: 69277 Call: 33402 Put: 35875 FTSE Call: 10344 Put: 16051

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 271926	Mar 97	112-22	112-29	112-19	112-20	13119
	Jun 97	112-07	112-14	112-01	112-03	38659
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest: 340585	Mar 97	103.47	103.61	103.25	103.28	163686
	Jun 97	102.64	102.79	102.46	102.46	176608
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest: 126982	Mar 97	128.25	128.40	127.50	127.78	18453
	Jun 97	128.00	128.34	127.28	127.40	71229
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 97	126.42	126.45	126.37	126.45	2987
	Jun 97	124.91	124.99	124.90	124.99	3598
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.73	93.74	93.72	93.73	15594
	Jun 97	93.49	93.57	93.49	93.54	26827
Previous open interest: 518075	Sep 97	93.27	93.34	93.27	93.32	12595
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest: 1254749	Mar 97	96.77	96.78	96.76	96.77	16616
	Apr 97	96.80	96.80	96.79	96.79	250
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest: 294185	Mar 97	92.69	92.71	92.66	92.66	7572
	Jun 97	93.12	93.19	93.09	93.10	29585
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97				99.40	0
	Sep 97	99.31	99.32	99.31	99.32	705
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest: 106550	Mar 97	98.29	98.31	98.26	98.27	3118
	Jun 97	98.34	98.37	98.30	98.31	6770
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest: 34597	Mar 97	95.78	95.80	95.78	95.80	1480
	Jun 97	95.78	95.83	95.78	95.82	1081
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 69964	Mar 97	4312.0	4352.0	4306.0	4342.0	17518
	Jun 97	4330.0	4369.0	4329.5	4362.0	3569

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5⅞ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¹¹⁄₁₆

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅝; 3 mth 5⅝. Sell: 2 mth 5⅝; 3 mth: 5⅝.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅞-5¾	6-5⅞	6⅛-5⅞	6¼-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-5⅞	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6⅝-6½
Interbank:	6⅛-5⅞	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6⅝-6½

Overnight: open 5⅞, close 5⅞.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5⅞	n/a	6⅛	6⅜	6⅝
Sterling CDs:	6-5⅞	6⅛-6	6¼-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6⅝-6½
Dollar CDs:	5.35	n/a	5.43	5.59	5.89
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-5⅞	6⅛-6	6¼-6⅛	6⅜-6¼	6⅝-6½

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅜-5¼	5½-5⅜	5⅝-5½	5-4
Deutschemark:	3¼-2⅞	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3¼-2⅞
French Franc:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1⅝	1⅝-1⅝	1⅝-1⅝	1⅝-1⅝	2⅛-1⅛
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $362.50-362.80 Close: $359.55-360.05 High: $362.50-362.80

Low: $358.05-358.55 AM: $361.75 PM: $359.40

Krugerrand: $358.75-361.75 (£222.25-224.25)

Platinum: $385.25 (£238.25) Silver: $5.25 (£3.245) Palladium: $149.75 (£92.60)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 4	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0987-3.1154	3.1073-3.1103	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Brussels	56.830-57.160	56.976-57.069	15-10pr	42-35pr
Copenhagen	10.514-10.567	10.540-10.550	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Dublin	1.0303-1.0341	1.0317-1.0330	5-1pr	15-9pr
Frankfurt	2.7554-2.7700	2.7629-2.7658	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-1⅛pr
Lisbon	276.66-278.03	277.22-277.53	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛d
Madrid	233.53-234.58	233.78-234.07	12-13ds	6-13ds
Milan	2748.2-2761.1	2755.2-2757.6	26-42ds	71-84ds
Montreal	2.2071-2.2153	2.2133-2.2153	0.61-0.56pr	1.16-1.08pr
New York	1.6146-1.6190	1.6167-1.6176	0.95-0.75pr	0.273-0.242pr
Oslo	11.196-11.276	11.254-11.263	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Paris	9.3010-9.3460	9.3200-9.3268	2⅛-2⅛pr	6⅛-6⅛pr
Stockholm	12.293-12.396	12.357-12.375	⅛-⅛pr	⅛pr
Tokyo	196.73-197.31	196.91-197.11	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	19.388-19.500	19.445-19.466	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3960-2.4016	2.3976-2.3997	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2669-1.2677
Austria	12.02-12.03
Belgium (Com)	35.28-35.29
Canada	1.3686-1.3691
Denmark	6.5213-6.5233
France	5.7685-5.7690
Germany	1.7095-1.7105
Hong Kong	7.7440-7.7450
Ireland	1.5660-1.5670
Italy	1703.80-1705.30
Japan	121.90-122.00
Malaysia	2.4730-2.4750
Netherlands	1.9233-1.9238
Norway	6.9716-6.9789
Portugal	171.60-171.70
Singapore	1.4258-1.4265
Spain	144.82-144.87
Sweden	7.6479-7.6554
Switzerland	1.4820-1.4830

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6163-1.6190
Australia dollar	2.0480-2.0508
Bahrain dinar	0.6025-0.6145
Brazil real*	1.6950-1.6993
China yuan	13.229-13.529
Cyprus pound	0.8150-0.8250
Finland markka	8.1550-8.2710
Greece drachma	428.25-435.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.5197-12.5306
India rupee	57.41-58.37
Indonesia rupiah	3829.0-3897.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4850-0.4950
Malaysia ringgit	3.9981-4.0043
New Zealand dollar	2.2960-2.3047
Pakistan rupee	64.25 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8150-5.9900
Singapore dollar	2.3045-2.3075
S Africa rand (com)	7.1660-7.2680
U A E dirham	5.8675-5.9915

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,600	Land Secs	981
ASDA Gp	7,300	Legal & Gn	1,400
Abbey Ntl	167	Lloyds TSB	10,700
Allied Dom	3,200	LucasVarity	6,600
Argos	704	Marks Spr	7,400
AB Foods	379	Mercury Asset	865
BAA	3,400	NatWst Bk	5,400
BAT Inds	9,000	Nat Grid	6,500
BG	14,000	Nat Power	2,100
BOC	2,500	Next	368
BP	7,300	Orange	3,100
BSkyB	2,600	P & O	1,300
BTR	11,600	Pearson	1,800
BT	14,100	PowerGen	567
Bk of Scot	2,600	Prudential	2,500
Barclays	29,500	RMC	735
Bass	1,400	RTZ	2,400
Blue Circle	1,500	Railtrack	1,500
Boots	1,900	Rank Group	4,100
BAe	2,600	Reckitt Col	2,800
BA	2,800	Reed Intl	1,300
Brit Steel	1,800	Rentokil Inl	3,600
Burmah Cstl	600	Reuters	1,900
Burton	4,900	Rolls Royce	6,300
Cable Wire	4,900	Royal & Sun	5,900
Cadbury	3,300	Royal Bk Sct	2,400
Carlton Cms	2,500	Safeway	4,000
Centrica	35,200	Sainsbury	3,900
Cm Union	3,600	Schroders	335
Dixons	688	Scot & New	2,400
EMI	1,200	Scot Power	1,100
Energy Gp	2,700	Sevn Trent	475
Enterpr Oil	2,100	Shell Trans	5,900
GKN	1,100	Siebe	698
GRE	2,500	SmKl Bch	2,800
GUS	1,400	Smith Nph	9,900
Gen Acc	1,900	Smiths Inds	2,200
Gen Elec	4,700	Std Chartd	2,100
Glaxo Well	4,200	TI Gp	973
Granada	2,000	Tate & Lyle	808
Grand Met	5,900	Tesco	4,300
Guinness	5,800	Thames W	711
HSBC	4,000	Tomkins	2,100
Hanson	6,100	Unilever	1,900
Hays	2,900	Utd Utilities	3,300
ICI	3,100	Utd News	1,200
Imp Tob	3,600	Vodafone	5,700
Kingfisher	3,600	Whitbread	744
LASMO	2,200	Wolseley	1,100
Ladbroke	2,500	Zeneca	1,500

WALL STREET

	Mar 4 midday	Mar 3 close
AMP Inc	38¼	38¼
AMR Corp	81¼	80½
ASA	36¼	37¼
AT & T	36¼	36¼
Abbott Labs	56¼	57
Advanced Mkro	36¼	36
Aetna Life	85¼	84¼
Ahmanson (HF)	41½	41½
Air Prod & Chem	71	73¼
AirTouch Comm	27¼	27¼
Alberto-Culver B	29¼	29¼
Albertson's	34½	34½
Alcan Aluminum	36½	36¼
Allied Signal	72¼	71¼
Alum Co of Am	72½	72¼
Amax Gold Inc	7½	7¼
Amerada Hess	52¼	52¼
Amer Brands	53¼	53¼
Amer El Power	41¼	41¼
Amer Express	64¼	65¼
Amer Genl Corp	43½	43
Amer Home Pr	64	64¼
Amer Intl	121¼	121¼
Amer Stores	44¼	44½
Amer Standard	45¼	44¼
Ameritech	63¼	63¼
Amoco	84¼	83¼
Anheuser-Busch	43¼	43¼
Apple Computer	16½	16½
Archer Daniels	18½	18¼
Armco	4½	4
Armstrng Wrld	69¼	69¼
Asarco	30¼	30¼
Atl Richfield	125¼	125½
Auto Data Pro	43¼	43¼
Avery Dennison	40¼	40¼
Avon Products	59	58¼
Baker Hughes	35¼	34¼
Baltim Gas & El	27¼	27¼
Banc One	44¼	44¼
Bankamerica	115¼	114¼
Bank of NY	39	39¼
Bankers Tr NY	92¼	91¼
Barnett Banks	46¼	46¼
Bausch & Lomb	37¼	37¼
Baxter Intl	46¼	46¼
Bectn Dickinsn	50¼	49¼
Bell Atlantic	68¼	68¼
Bell Industries	22¼	22
BellSouth	45¼	46¼
Black & Decker	32¼	32¼
Block (H&R)	29¼	29¼
Boeing	102¼	102¼
Boise Cascade	33¼	33
Bristol Myrs Sq	68	67¼
Browning Ferris	31¼	32
Brunswick	28¼	29¼
Burlington Nthn	85¼	85
CMS Energy Corp	32¼	32¼
CNA Financial	111	111¼
CPC Intl	85¼	84
CSX	50	50
Campbell Soup	80¼	80¼
Can Pacific	24¼	24¼
Carolina Pwr	37¼	37¼
Caterpillar	79	78¼
Central & SW	24	24
Champion Intl	43¼	43¼
Chase Manhat	101¼	102
Chevron Corp	65¼	65¼
Chrysler	33¼	33¼
Chubb Corp	55	56
Ciena Corp	51¼	52¼
Citicorp	117¼	117¼
Clorox	119¼	120¼
Coastal Corp	46¼	46
Coca Cola	62	60¼
Coca Cola Ent	62	62
Colgate-Palm	105¼	105¼
Columbia Gas	60¼	60¼
ColumbiaHCA	42¼	41
Compaq Comp	80¼	80¼
Comp Ass Intl	44¼	43¼
Conagra	52¼	51
Conrail	112¼	111¼
Cons Edison	31¼	31
Cons Nat Gas	51	51¼
Cooper Inds	43¼	43¼
Corestates	52¼	52¼
Corning Inc	37¼	37¼
Crown Cork	54¼	55¼
Dana Corp	31¼	31¼
Dayton Hudson	42	42
Deere	42¼	43¼
Delta Air Lines	82¼	82¼
Deluxe Corp	31¼	31¼
Digital Equip	32¼	33
Dillard Dept St	30	30¼
Disney (Walt)	73¼	73¼
Dominion Res	40	40
Donnelley (RR)	36¼	36¼
Dover Corp	50¼	49¼
Dow Chemical	82	81¼
Dow Jones	42¼	41¼
Dresser	34	34¼
Duke Power	44¼	44¼
Dun & Bradstreet	24¼	24
Du Pont	110¼	111¼
Eastman Chem	55	55¼
Eastman Kodak	91¼	90¼

	Mar 4 midday	Mar 3 close
Eaton Corp	72¼	72¼
Edison Intl	21½	21¼
Elect Data Sys	45¼	44¼
Emerson Elec	99¼	99¼
Engelhard Corp	22¼	22¼
Enron Corp	39¼	39¼
Entergy	26¼	26¼
Ethyl Corp	9¼	9¼
Exxon	101¼	99¼
FMC Corp	69	68¼
FPL Group	45¼	46
Federal Express	51¼	52
First Bk Sys	80	79¼
First Union Rlty	13¼	13¼
Fleet Finl Grp	61¼	62
Fluor Corp	60	59¼
Ford Motor	32¼	33¼
GTE Corp	47¼	47¼
Gannett	79¼	79¼
Gap Inc Del	33¼	32¼
Gencorp	19¼	19¼
Gen Dynamics	65¼	66¼
Gen Electric	102¼	103¼
Gen Mills	65¼	65
Gen Motors	58	59¼
Gen Reinsurance	170¼	170¼
Gen Signal	43¼	43¼
Genuine Parts	46¼	47
Georgia Pac	76¼	77
Gillette	81	79¼
Glaxo Wellc ADR	34	33¼
Goodrich (BF)	41	40¼
Goodyear Tire	53¼	53
Gt Atl Pac Tea	30¼	30
Great Wstn Fin	43¼	43¼
Halliburton	62¼	61¼
Harcourt General	47¼	47¼
Heinz (HJ)	42¼	41¼
Hercules	46¼	46¼
Hershey Foods	48¼	49¼
Hewlett Packard	57	56¼
Hilton Hotels	24¼	25¼
Home Depot	55¼	55¼
Homestake Mng	15¼	16¼
Honeywell	72¼	73¼
Household Intl	96¼	97¼
Houston Inds	23¼	23¼
Humana	20¼	21
ITT Corp	57¼	57¼
Ikon Office	41¼	41¼
Illinois Tool	84¼	84
Illinova	25¼	25¼
INCO	35¼	35¼
Ingersoll Rand	47¼	47¼
Inland Steel	19¼	19¼
Intel Corp	146¼	145¼
IBM	143¼	145¼
Intl Flav & Fr	45¼	45¼
Intl Paper	42¼	42¼
James River Va	33	32¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	58	58¼
Kellogg	68¼	68¼
Kerr-McGee	62¼	61¼
Kimberly-Clark	107	106¼
Kmart	12¼	12¼
Knight-Ridder	40¼	39¼
Lilly (Eli)	87¼	89¼
Limited Inc	18¼	19¼
Lincoln Nat	57¼	57¼
Litton	43	42¼
Liz Claiborne	41¼	41¼
Lockheed Martin	88¼	89¼
Louisiana Pac	21	21¼
MCI Comm	36¼	35¼
Manpower Inc	36¼	36¼
Marriott Intl	52	52¼
Marsh & McLen	116¼	117¼
Masco Corp	34¼	35
May Dept St	47¼	46¼
Maytag Corp	22¼	23
McDonalds	44¼	43¼
McDonnell D	63¼	63¼
McGraw Hill	52¼	52¼
Mead Corp	58¼	58
Medtronic	64¼	64¼
Mellon Bk	81¼	82¼
Merck Inc	93	94
Merrill Lynch	90¼	90¼
Microsoft	98¼	98¼
Minnesota Mng	91¼	92¼
Mobil Corp	126¼	125¼
Monsanto	37¼	37¼
Morgan (JP)	107¼	106¼
Motorola Inc	55¼	55¼
Natl Semi	27¼	27¼
Natl Service Ind	38	38¼
Navistar Intl	9¼	9¼
NY Times A	44¼	44
Newmont Mng	47	47¼
Niag Mohawk	10¼	10¼
Nike B	72¼	71¼
NL Industries	11¼	11¼
Noram Energy	15	15
Nordstrom	37¼	37
Norfolk Sthrn	93¼	93¼
Nthn State Pwr	47¼	47¼
Northrop Corp	80¼	80¼
Nynex Corp	51¼	51¼
Occidental Pet	25¼	25¼
Ohio Edison	22¼	22¼

	Mar 4 midday	Mar 3 close
Oracle	39¼	39¼
Oryx Energy Co	19¼	19
Overseas Ship	17¼	17¼
Owens Corning	41¼	42¼
PHH Corp	47¼	47¼
PPG Industries	56	56¼
PNC Bank	43¼	42¼
PP&L Res	22¼	22¼
Paccar Inc	68¼	67¼
Pacificorp	20¼	20¼
Pac Enterprises	30¼	30¼
Pac Telesis	41	40¼
Pall Corp	21	21¼
Parker Hannifin	44¼	44¼
Peco Energy	22¼	22¼
Penney (JC)	48¼	49
Pennzoil	56¼	56¼
Pepsico	33¼	33¼
Pfizer	91¼	92¼
Pharm & Upjhn	36¼	36¼
Phelps Dodge	72¼	71¼
Philip Morris	135¼	136¼
Phillips Pet	41¼	41¼
Pitney Bowes	62¼	62¼
Polaroid	42	42
Procter & Gmbl	120¼	120¼
Providian	56¼	56¼
Pub Serv E & G	28¼	28¼
Quaker Oats	36¼	36¼
Ralston Purina	83	83¼
Raychem Corp	86	85¼
Raytheon	47¼	47¼
Reebok Intl	46¼	46
Reynolds Metals	62¼	62¼
Rockwell Intl	63¼	64¼
Rohm & Haas	91¼	92¼
Royal Dutch	172¼	170¼
Rubbermaid	23¼	24¼
SBC Comms	57¼	57¼
Safeco Corp	40¼	41¼
St Paul's Cos	68¼	68¼
Salomon Inc	56¼	55¼
Sara Lee Corp	38¼	38¼
Schering Plough	77¼	78¼
Schlumberger	100¼	98¼
Seagram	38¼	38¼
Sears Roebuck	54¼	54¼
Shell Trans	102¼	102¼
Sherwin Wlms	56¼	56¼
Skyline Corp	24	23¼
Snap-On-Tools	39¼	39¼
Southern Co	21¼	21¼
Sprint Corp	44¼	45¼
Stanley Works	38¼	38¼
Sun Company	27	26¼
Sun Microsys	30¼	30¼
Suntrust	51¼	52¼
Supervalu	30¼	30¼
Sysco Corp	34¼	34¼
TRW Inc	52¼	52¼
TCC Inds	1¼	2
Tandem Comp	12¼	12¼
Tandy Corp	51¼	51
Temple Inland	54¼	54¼
Tenneco	39¼	40
Texaco	99¼	98¼
Texas Inst	80¼	80
Texas Utilities	40¼	40¼
Textron	99¼	98¼
Time Warner	42¼	42¼
Times-Mirror A	52¼	52¼
Timken	52¼	52
Torchmark	58¼	58¼
Toys R Us	27¼	27
Transamerica	87¼	87¼
Travelers	54¼	54¼
Tribune	38¼	39¼
Tyco Intl	58¼	58¼
UST Inc	30¼	30¼
UAL	63¼	59¼
US Inds	36¼	36¼
US West Comm	35¼	35¼
US West Media	18¼	18¼
USAirways Group	20¼	19¼
USX Marathon	26¼	26¼
Unicom	22	22¼
Unilever NV	185¼	185¼
Union Camp	48¼	48¼
Union Carbide	47¼	47¼
Union Pacific	61¼	61¼
Unisys Corp	6¼	6¼
USF&G Corp	22¼	22¼
US Life	47¼	47¼
United Tech	74¼	74¼
Unocal Corp	38¼	38¼
VF Corp	69¼	69¼
WMX Tech	32¼	32
Wal-Mart Stores	27¼	27¼
Warner-Lambert	83¼	83¼
Wells Fargo	309¼	309¼
Westinghouse El	18¼	17¼
Weyerhaeuser	46¼	46¼
Whirlpool	50¼	50¼
Whitman	23¼	23¼
Winn Dixie	32	32¼
Woolworth	21¼	21¼
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	56¼	56¼
Xerox	62¼	62¼
Yellow Corp	15¼	15¼

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The Magpies in silks sell-off

TO COINCIDE with its stock market flotation, Newcastle United is selling its black and white stripes as racing silks. As part of a British Horseracing Board initiative, the hallmark stripes are going on sale by sealed-bid tender. Because of their special appeal, the reserve has been set at £20,000. Bids must rise in increments of £500 and must be received by 5 pm on April 27 at the Wellingborough offices of Weatherbys. Paul Khan, director of racing at Weatherbys, said: "An increase in the interest in distinctive silks in general and the topical nature of these colours in particular, has led to the one-off sale."

'Media' debate

EMPLOYEES at Pearson are divided over the latest addition to the decor. The blue and green tapestry, enigmatically entitled *Media*, which hangs in the lobby of Three Burlington Gardens, is rumoured to have cost about £48,000. It was designed by Eduardo Palozzi, who is responsible for covering the walls of the new British Library, and was made by the Edinburgh Tapestry Company. Pearson declined to disclose a figure for the technicolour rug.

"We might get a little Xtra"

Twin priorities

CONGRATULATIONS to Robin Hepburn. A director at Ludgate, his wife, Emma, gave birth to twins on the same day that the City PR firm fell into the hands of McCann Erickson, the American advertising agency. The 12 lb bouncing pair, Jemima and Amelia, are doing well. New man Hepburn, who until last November worked for Shandwick Consultants, and boasts another three children, tells me: "The birth of the twins was certainly more important than the future of Ludgate."

BAFFLING news from Morgan Stanley where Charles Scott, formerly head of European sales in the institutional equity division, was yesterday appointed head of European research. After five years in the job, Theresa Bohl has decided, in the firm's words, "to take a leave of absence". Bohl, 38, is taking time out to restore her batteries; it's unlikely that she will return to the same position. A spokeswoman assures me "She's not gone gone. We wish her every happiness."

Decision time

A PRIZEWINNER at BZW is still deliberating whether to pick up his reward. Among the more unusual prizes in a raffle to raise money for The British Heart Foundation, held in memory of David Band, BZW's former chief executive who died in March last year, and Charles Hewitt, a messenger at Ebbgate House who died in December 1996, was a day's whale spotting in Mull and a cache of betting vouchers. Ade Adetayo, an analyst programmer in equities IT, will you please make up your mind whether you want a day at a gypsum mine and plasterboard plant.

MORAG PRESTON

A rare case of litigation being good for your health

Alasdair Murray on the small-town lawyer challenging the tobacco giants to indemnify smokers

In litigious America the cult status of celebrity lawyers has made legal high-flyers such as Alan Dershowitz as famous as his clients, who range from O. J. Simpson to Mia Farrow.

Norwood "Woody" Wilner has the potential to eclipse even Mr Dershowitz. America has always admired its small-town heroes prepared to take on Big Business and Mr Wilner is leading the fight against the tobacco companies. He is acting for the millions of ordinary smokers who Mr Wilner believes were bamboozled by lying tobacco corporations.

Mr Wilner struck the first blow last summer, leading a successful assault on the industry in the Grady Carter case — a result that wiped billions of dollars off the stock market value of giants such as Philip Morris, RJ Nabisco and BAT Industries in the UK.

The victory was achieved without resorting to legal sophistries or developing some new-fangled concept on which to nail the companies. Both in and out of the courtroom Mr Wilner comes across as a regular guy prepared to cut through the legal mire.

He cites his hobbies as cycling, roller-blading and rowing. He lives in a suburban house in unfashionable Jacksonville, Florida, having turned his back on a career in corporate law in Miami. But Mr Wilner does not portray himself as a health crusader seeking to destroy evil tobacco companies. He spent 20 years defending the interests of the asbestos companies, including T&N, against thousands of lung-disease claims from former workers. It was this experience, rather than some kind of conversion to consumer champion, that persuaded him to take on the role of plaintiff.

"Tobacco has been on my mind for almost 20 years," he says. "I felt that asbestos companies were often paying for lung diseases caused by smoking." Curiosity led him to investigate the smoking issue further and he began to suspect that the industry was not playing fair with the facts. "The tobacco industry has not answered all the questions asked of them," he says. "It has behaved arrogantly and dishonourably towards its customers.".

He launched his first case in February 1995, seeking damages from The American Tobacco Company, a subsidiary of BAT, on behalf of Grady Carter, a retired air traffic controller. From the outset he adopted a straighforward and honest approach, admitting that Mr Carter — a 40-a-day man for 30-odd years — should take some of the blame.

It was a risky strategy. Mr Carter only quit smoking when he found that he had lung cancer. Any immediate sympathy a jury might feel for Mr Carter was further eroded by the fact that at the trial his cancer was in remission and Mr Carter looked healthy. The prosecution could also play on the fact that Mr Carter was a motorbike fanatic — a man who clearly enjoys risk. But Mr Wilner turned the admission of partial guilt from his client to advantage, contrasting it with the refusal of the tobacco companies to accept blame. "Carter blames himself, which is a natural human reaction," he says. "But cigarettes addict 90 per cent of users."

Norwood Wilner says the tobacco industry has behaved dishonourably

Mr Wilner used his expert knowledge of lung diseases to establish the harm done by smoking. He then pointed to strong evidence that tobacco companies knew of the potential risks as long ago as 1953, but negligently failed to advise smokers of the dangers before the late Sixties.

The case was heard in front of a jury and Mr Wilner felt that he would still struggle to persuade jurors that he describes as "bubbas" of the virtues of his client's case. Mr Wilner satirises a "bubba" as a classic American redneck, who drives a pick-up truck with a gun rack on top and believes that health warnings are for wimps. "A bubba probably does not even have brakes on the pick-up," he adds. But a bubba does believe in a bargain — the truck had brakes when it was purchased and it was the consumer's decision to take them off.

Mr Wilner says: "The bubba does not like people lying. He does not care about the risk element as he is a risk-taker. But he wants products to offer best value for money. I spent a lot of time showing how cigarette companies could have improved their product."

The argument was a success and Mr Carter was awarded $750,000 in damages. BAT has launched an appeal and told the markets that it is confident of having the verdict overturned. BAT is relying on proving that documentation used to establish that tobacco companies knew of the risks of smoking is inadmissible because it came from Brown & Williamson, the company's main tobacco subsidiary, which did not own The American Tobacco Company during the period covered by the case. BAT also argues that speculation about developing a safer cigarette is not relevant.

Mr Wilner, unsurprisingly, is unconvinced by BAT's case. "BAT chose to buy these companies and was in the court stating that tobacco is not addictive, yet they want to exclude the jury from seeing documents from their own medical advisers in 1963 stating the opposite," he says. "As far as the speculation over the safer cigarette is concerned, they asked the question and did not like the answer."

It could be six months before the appeal is heard. Meanwhile, Mr Wilner is filing cases against other tobacco companies. He has just achieved another big breakthrough in a case against R J Reynolds by adding a claim for punitive damages to the charge sheet. The $750,000 awarded in the Carter case will seem like pin money if Mr Wilner persuades a jury of the merits of this case. He believes the addition of punitive damages is important not just because of the potential costs to the tobacco companies but because it will enable him to broaden the issues raised and "permit us to argue about the social policies with the jury".

For the Reynolds case, Mr Wilner has added another twist, persuading Ron Motley from Charleston — a former adversary from the asbestos case battles — to join his team.

Of course, Mr Wilner is not the sole crusader in the battle with the tobacco companies. Some 15 states have filed suits to recover Medicaid costs for treating smoking-related diseases. So far the tobacco industry has held firm, but Mr Wilner believes that the only long-term solution for the industry is to move towards a global settlement.

BAT caused some excitement last month when it suggested that it would look at any proposed settlement that would trade compensation for future legal immunity. But so far there is not even a blueprint for a settlement and both the industry and its adversaries believe a solution is still years away.

Mr Wilner says: "What is being proposed is legislation which has its own life. I believe that, ultimately, there will be some kind of agreement. It would cost the tobacco companies around $3 billion to settle individual cases — although adding in state cases may double this figure. But this is a fraction of their marketing budgets and it would save around $500 million a year in legal fees."

But Mr Wilner believes that it is too early for any long-term agreement. "There is not enough pressure yet. If you have 2,000 cases across the country and we are beginning to win them then the industry will look for another solution." He also points out that the high-profile court battles have generated renewed publicity about the dangers of smoking. He says: "The view of the doctors in the US is that the litigation process has helped to promote the health message by forcing the issues into the open — a rare case of litigation being good for your health."

Mr Wilner is yet to make a cent from his cases although he is not taking them on for free. "I need to make some money to stay in business," he says. "I'm not trying to bankrupt them, but they need to come out of the shadows into reality. I always offer to settle my cases. It is morally and financially correct to look for a solution. If the tobacco companies believe they can fight to the death, the death could be theirs."

ANTHONY HARRIS

When structures are shaky, hold your breath

Did you know that there was an earth tremor, Richter scale 5.6, outside Tokyo the other day? The news was monitored by Stephen Lewis of London Bond Broking, the regular supplier of arcane fact to the markets. He thinks that you should be alert to geology, but more concerned about an economic upheaval: the sudden re-emergence of a huge Japanese trade surplus. Well, perhaps; though my own money would remain on an earthquake. Either could cause worldwide financial tremors.

This is because Japan has for some time been the sole prop of a global financial pyramid which is potentially shakier than any building. Most people understand by now that Japan is the main source of the liquidity which is driving the present bull market; but they are less clear about how a country in surplus could be pumping out money. "Official currency intervention" is the snap answer many market people would offer; but they would be wrong. For some time the one important source has been private borrowing in yen, now running at more than $60 billion a *month*.

This should really be no surprise. Wholesale yen loans are available at 0.4 per cent, which offers anyone running a bond book a free lunch, with all the trimmings. Total yen debt of primary financial dealers is reported at just under $300 billion; it would no doubt be higher, but for prudential limits on currency exposure. The hedge funds must have been less restrained; which means the biggest leveraged investment position since Wall Street in 1929. It could hardly look more perilous.

What, then, keeps it looking so stable? Mainly the continuing Japanese banking crisis. Japanese goverment bonds may look unrewarding; but not when you can secure a return of 2.5 per cent or so at a cost of 0.4 per cent. It is mainly for their benefit that the Bank of Japan runs its hidden subsidy system; the bond dealers and hedge funds are simply free riders, as they were in the US market during the Fed's similar banking bale-out. The bull market looks safe as long as the Japanese banking system continues to look shaky. Not a bad bet, on the face of it; but two events could disturb this precarious balance.

One, as Lewis surmises, is a yen recovery; this would make yen loans look expensive all of a sudden. The other is an earthquake.

The "danger" he sees to the yen is that the Japanese current account is really much stronger than it looks. The figures show a reduction of three trillion yen (about $24 billion) in the last year; but nearly all of this is the once-for-all J-curve effect of yen devaluation. In 1997 exports should grow faster and imports could fall; the surplus might even head past $100 billion to new records, to the rage of the US. However, this would not necessarily push up the exchange rate. Even a record surplus would be dwarfed by the gross flow of foreign borrowing.

The real danger would come not so much from the arithmetic of supply and demand as from any attack of nerves on the part of borrowers. If they decided to shorten their yen exposures, it would not only drive up the yen but put a big squeeze on financial market liqidity, depressing prices everywhere. That in turn might provoke Japanese investors into bringing their funds home on a serious scale (as against the window-dressing end-year transfers going on at the moment); and so on. When the big crash does come, this could quite easily be the script; not yet, though, in my judgment. The bubble still isn't big enough.

A big earthquake, of course, would have just the opposite economic effect, disrupting Japanese industry and putting its banks beyond the reach of window-dressing. But the financial effect might not be so different, because the authorities might have to support the yen and avert a meltdown. This again would suck liquidity out of markets. Moral, perhaps: when structures are so shaky, the wise man holds his breath.

Jon Ashworth sees peace break out at Littlewoods

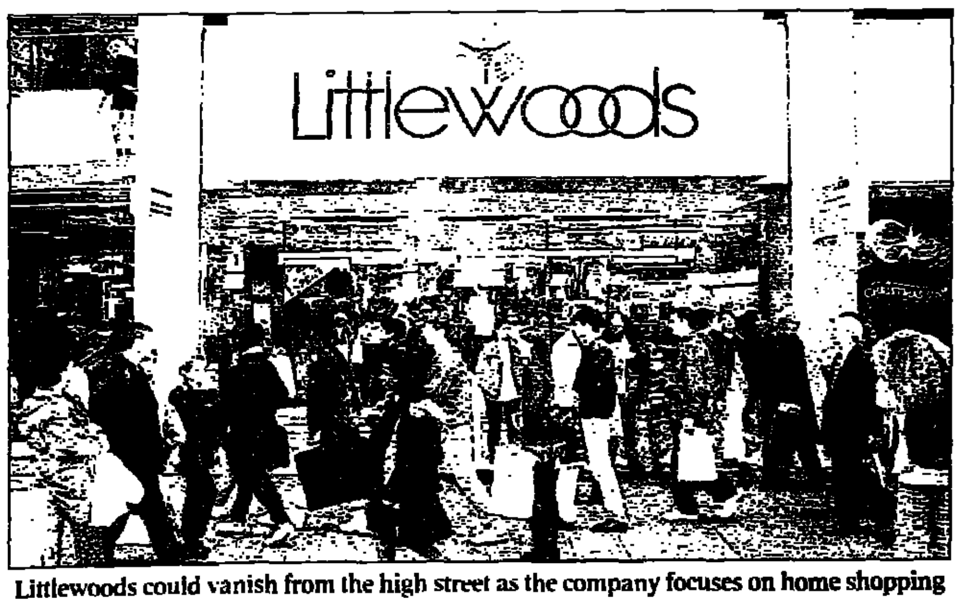
Moores clan shows united front over plan to sell the family silver

What would corporate Britain be without a good, rollicking, family bust-up? Two years ago, the descendants of Sir John Moores, founder of Littlewoods, appeared hell-bent on tearing their legacy apart. Rivals were offering fortunes to buy them out. Management consultants came up with endless ideas about group strategy.

The disappointing news is that the feuding has ceased — for the time being at least. There was barely a peep yesterday, when Littlewoods confirmed that it is seeking to sell its 135-strong chain of high street stores, ending a 60-year presence. No doubt there was much behind-the-scenes muttering about "selling off the family silver", but publicly, at least, the family is united behind its management. No small achievement.

This is reassuring news for James Ross, the former chief executive of Cable and Wireless, who replaced Leonard van Geest last May. His arrival coincided with the firmest attempt yet to stamp out the infighting that had threatened to overwhelm Littlewoods. Earlier in the year, family members had voted in favour of a shareholders' charter that had one over-arching aim: to allow the board to take decisions without interference from the controlling shareholders. So far, so good.

It was the death, in 1993, of Sir John Moores, the company's founder, that launched Littlewoods on its bumpy ride. Ownership of the company is in the hands of about 30 descendants of Sir John and his brother, Cecil, and differing views about how the business should be run lay at the heart of the problems.



Littlewoods could vanish from the high street as the company focuses on home shopping

Matters came to a head in December 1995, when the family met to consider two rival offers for the company. Barry Dale, dismissed as chief executive months earlier, had returned with a £1.1 billion bid. A similar offer was on the table from N Brown, the catalogue group, and Iceland Frozen Foods. Both were rejected.

By the summer of 1996, Mr Ross had arrived on the scene and the company had announced plans to spend £135 million on its stores, creating 3,000 jobs. Six months later, all bets were off. The expansion was scrapped and Bob Willett, managing director of Littlewoods' stores division, resigned in protest.

Now it seems that the stores could go altogether — the result of an uncompromising review by Bain & Co, the management consultant. Littlewoods has decided to throw its money behind home shopping, even though the proposed £305 million purchase of Freemans is awaiting clearance from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Risky, perhaps, but at least some sort of theme is starting to emerge.

The Moores family is still there, of course, but appears to be backing Mr Ross and his cohorts: Bill Huntly, chief executive, and Jim Michie, finance director. Of Sir John's four children, it is Lady Granchester, with a non-executive seat on the board, who would appear to have the upper hand. Her son, James Suenson-Taylor, once tipped as a candidate for chairman, is the only other family member in the boardroom.

Sir John's second son, Peter, sold his stake in 1994. Another son, also John, retired last year, and a fourth child, Janatha, has long kept her views to herself.

So the future, for now at least, rests with three "outsiders" guided by Bain & Co. All should go smoothly, provided Lady Granchester continues to hold sway. There are plenty of younger Moores with forthright views about how their company should be run. Any hint that the strategy has gone awry and Mr Ross could face some difficult questions.

DIRECT LINE INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNT

Revised interest rates effective from 5th March 1997.

BALANCE	NEW INTEREST RATES	
	PAID ANNUALLY (GROSS %)	PAID MONTHLY (GROSS %)
£1-£4,999	4.50	4.41
£5,000-£9,999	5.00	4.89
£10,000-£24,999	5.60	5.46
£25,000-£49,999	5.75	5.60
£50,000-£99,999	6.00	5.84
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Equities enjoy widespread gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	407½	Allied Domecq	437½	+ 5	6.7	13.2
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	620		2.7	18.5
131	63½	Burn Stewart	89		6.2	73.3
1005	615	Glenmorangie A	1000		1.5	27.2
496	411	Grand Metr	460	+ 5½	4.3	14.9
493	424	Guinness	462	+ 5	4.1	14.3
380	315	Highland Dist	349	− 1	3.0	16.8
803	255½	Matthew Clark†	321½	+ 1	9.3	15.3
141	91½	Morrison W	107½		5.3	14.5
2612½	1375	SA Breweries†	1862½	+ 9¼	1.9	

BANKS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4706¼	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	4469¾	+ 62½	2.6	18.3
811	528	Abbey Ntl	760	+ 10½	4.4	13.1
455½	315	Allied Irish	429½	− 5½	4.2	..
409½	285	Aus New Z	378¼	+ ¼	5.9	..
7609¾	3843¾	Bank America	7087½	+ 65¾		
373½	227½	Bank Scotland	349½	+ 8½	2.6	12.8
1226	683	Barclays†	1110	+ 16	3.5	11.2
631½	413	Bk of Ireland	617½	− 5	3.4	14.0
7884¾	4031¼	Citicorp	7275	+ 65¾	..	
1578¼	1288¾	Commerzbk	1585¾	− 12½	2.8	
1350	609¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	671¼	+ 6¼	0.6	..
3412½	2709¾	Deutsche Bk	3225	+ 12½	2.0	..
898¾	593¾	Espirito Santo	896¼	+ 31½	3.8	12.6
1507	600¼	Fuji Bank Y	718¼	+ 8	0.6	
1583½	931	HSBC	1572½	+ 20½	3.3	13.4
1544	930	HSBC HK	1521½	+ 16	3.4	13.0
600	385	Irish Perm†	600		2.7	
534	294½	Lloyds TSB†	516½	+ 14½	3.2	16.2
819½	566	Nat Aust Bk	788¾	+ 9½	5.3	10.5
844½	606½	Nat West†	737½	+ 6	4.8	11.1
632½	464	Ryl Bk Scot	589½	+ 5	3.9	13.0
893½	547	Stand Chart	887½	+ 21½	2.1	15.7
£174¼	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		3.0	
374¼	264	Westpac	346¼	+ 1¾	3.9	11.0

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	702	Bass	851½	+ 6½	3.7	16.8
70	40	Brk for the Bch	64		3.4	17.5
205	161	Burtonwd Brw	188½		3.7	17.0
149½	92	City Centre Rest	149		1.9	38.1
744½	463	Compass Grp	742½	+ 10	1.4	29.4
290½	190	Eldridge P 'A'	287½		2.3	17.6
540	413	Fuller Sm 'A'	480	..	2.4	16.0
636	545½	Greenalls Grp	560½	+ 5½	3.4	17.6
727	567½	Greene King	726½	+ 2½	2.8	17.9
285	164½	Grosvenor Inns†	215½		3.5	30.8
385	304	Groupe Chez Ger	381½	− 3½	1.3	27.5
357	276½	Hardy Hanson	393½		4.5	13.3
3475	2700	Hall J	2762½	+ 12½	2.6	14.9
76	45	Inn Business†	75½		2.6	
356	298	Mansfield	356		2.2	16.4
353½	252	Marston Thmp	295	− 1	3.2	11.0
659	524	Morland	595		2.8	15.7
198½	118	My Kinda Town	188		2.0	16.4
72½	39½	Paramount	39½	− ½		
623½	217	PizzaExpress†	623½	+ 5	0.6	40.7
438	245	Ramsdens (H)†	402½	− 2½	1.8	..
378½	138½	Regent Inns†	355	+ 1½	0.9	33.9
700	601	Scot & New	671	− 4½	3.7	20.3
313	246	Vaux Group	283½	− 1	4.7	13.5
1255	640	Wetherspoon JD	1147½	+ 5	1.0	35.5
819	672	Whitbread	797	− 2	3.5	16.2
706½	576	Wolvrhmptn D	701½	− 3½	3.0	15.4
477½	297	Yates Bros	477½	+ 2½	1.0	30.9
650	425	Young 'A'	630		3.1	24.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
34½	15	AAF Inds	26½			
202	135	Abbey	195		3.6	20.0
297½	212¼	Allen	285½		3.0	17.5
133	86½	Amec	121	+ ½	3.1	30.4
472½	117	Amey	472½	+ 5	2.0	29.0
532½	233	Andrews Sykes	495	− 5	1.3	10.7
282½	152	Ashtead†	261	+ ½	1.5	23.6

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
202½	129½	Acton Cp Spls	193½	− 2		23.6
465	287	Adam & Harvey	360	− 2½	7.2	6.0
21½	10½	Alexanders†	12½		1.0	
113	66½	Appleyard	69	− ½	11.4	7.8
4	2	Ass Br Eng	3		2.5	
630	505	BSS Group	531		4.8	15.6
25	14½	Bearing Powr	16			
45	23	Brod 'A'	39½		2.5	11.1
685	426	Braemer	611½		2.0	17.5
26½	18	Budgend Gp	23		1.1	
113	76	Brd Fittings	99½	− 1	4.7	11.4
310	245	Calne	305		4.7	12.6
194½	152½	Cat Group	170½		2.9	16.6
160	105	Cavendale	131		3.2	6.6
107½	72½	Charles Sidney	85	.	5.6	12.0
79	51½	Cook (DC)	59		4.8	7.0
175	94½	Cog Motors	106½		9.0	7.5
163	125½	Dennans B	130½		2.6	14.7
434	328	Diploma	374	− 1	4.8	13.8

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
467½	328	Electrocompnts	410	+ 10	2.1	24.8
314	125¼	Eurodis Elect	203½	..	3.0	28.0
156	65	Eurodollar	140½	.	5.3	14.3
105	76	European Mk	89½	...	7.4	9.1
375	217	Evans Halshaw	260	.	7.8	10.2
67	39½	File Indxer	50½	.	8.2	7.8
397½	230½	Frost Grp▲	389½	− 6	2.1	23.2
34½	16½	Gardiner	33½	− ½	3.6	12.5
81	33½	Glenchewton	73	+ ½	1.8	21.6
110	70½	Gowrings	108½	+ 1	3.2	18.5
101	72	Hamlet	94½	− ½	7.9	8.8
292	216	Harris (Philip)	263½	− 1½	4.2	16.0
317½	200½	Headlam	310	+ 1½	2.3	25.7
200	132	Holders Tech	149		5.0	14.0
242½	153	ISA Intl	227½		1.6	
316	231	Inchcape	270½	+ 5	3.8	23.1
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	52½	...	4.8	18.1
260	169	Kwik-Fit	231½	− 1	2.8	18.6
390	299	Lex Service	366	+ 7	5.6	11.4
155	106	Lookers	109	+ 1	9.7	4.9
17	10½	Malaya Grp	13	..	6.3	24.0
9½	5½	Middlesex	7½	..	1.9	11.4
47	31	Midsiates	39	..	0.8	
565	228	Motrain	231½	− 10	4.3	6.4
174½	115	Northambs	164		1.1	9.8
370½	201½	Parkco	351½	− 1	3.0	
404½	272	Pendragon	395	− 4½	3.2	..
212½	145	Perry Gp	212½		4.9	10.8
752½	480	Premier Farnell	482½	+ 1	3.0	18.8
190	136	Quicks Group	147½	− 2	5.5	11.1
348	185	REA	330	− 7½	1.5	39.5
3	2	Reece	2¾	..		
54	20	Ronson	23½	.	8.0	8.1
4½	3	Ross Gp	3			
56	25¼	SEP Indt	27½		7.9	7.5
195	55	Saltire	57½		2.2	18.8
417½	246	Time Products	415½		3.3	17.0
301½	123	UMECO	245	− 1	2.4	17.6
352½	263½	Vardy (Reg)	332½	− 1	2.8	14.5
650	325	WF Elect	615		2.7	22.2
59	25¼	Wilshaw	34½		3.1	10.1
172½	75¼	Wyko†	159½		2.1	18.6
154½	104	Young (H)	145½		3.6	12.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
420	288	Antofagasta	402½	.	1.5	15.8
387	283	Ascot Hldgs	314½	..	2.1	
1056	705	Bolton Hill	834¼	+ 21	2.9	19.0
340	229	BTR	255½	+ 13	4.7	19.1
568	411	BAT	548½	+ 4	5.6	10.7
147½	108	Bibby (J)	131		7.2	7.6
65	50½	Brierley Inv	59½	− ¾	7.8	10.0
972	715	Charter	748	+ 6½	4.7	10.6
328	205	Cookson	231	− 1	4.5	12.3
229½	141	Cosalt	211		5.8	10.2
312½	204	DCC	311½		2.8	12.4
141¾	109½	Grampian Hldg	128½	..	6.2	13.0
172½	118½	Harrisn Crsfld	131½	+ ½	8.6	12.9
509¼	379½	Hutch Whamp	481	+ 7¾	2.1	19.8
437½	352	Imperial Tobacco	419	− 4½	6.0	8.4
563½	344¼	Jardine Math	377¼	+ 1¼	4.1	
217½	116½	Lonrho†	147½	+ 2	4.0	13.4
191	164	McLeod Russel	172		4.9	14.0
478	388	Powell Duffryn	422½	+ 2½	7.4	16.6
148	97	Ropner	142		7.3	12.3
232	153½	Staveley	177½	+ 1	6.5	12.7
607	499½	Swire Pacific	532¾	+ 4½	2.4	19.5
368	268	TT Group	330		2.6	15.7
296½	232½	Tomkins†	285	+ 1	4.5	14.2
295	167½	Unidare†	210		8.7	
512½	365	Wardle Storeys	458		5.2	17.0
350½	254	Wassall	345½	+ 1½	2.2	20.3
237	129½	Whitecroft	160	− ½	3.9	12.8
369½	294½	Williams Hldg	330	+ 1	5.7	14.3

ELECTRICITY

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
163½	89	Br Energy P/P	140½	− 1	7.2	...
737	479	East Midlands	670	..	5.9	9.9
570½	530	Energy Group	537½	+ 6	4.9	10.3
873	565	London Elect	704½		7.3	10.8
217½	164½	National Grid	210½	+ 4	6.6	8.4
615	373½	National Power	498	+ 6	5.9	9.5

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
329½	254	Morris Ashby†	298½	− 2	3.2	14.9
55	30	Neepsend	31½	+ ½	7.1	6.1
28½	12½	Oak Inl	23½	− ½		33.4
629½	374	Powerscreen	615½	− 7	1.9	18.6
6¾	3½	Prospect Inds	5			
299	200	Quadramatic	250		4.7	13.5
18	4	Quadrant Grp	10		3.1	
66	62	Radiant Metal	65			
69	46½	Ransomes	50½		3.1	11.1
83	52¾	Record	68½	.	7.1	10.4
324	231	Renold	232½		3.9	10.5
36	8½	Richards Group#	8½	...	18.4	
89	70½	Richardson West	70½	− 1	6.5	8.0
270	187	Rolls-Royce	236	− 1½	2.6	23.4
277½	171	Rotork	258½		3.0	21.4
203	100	Rubicon†	129	− 1	5.9	9.2
1584¼	1187½	SKF 'B'	1484½	+ 9¼	2.9	
125	92½	Senior Eng	119½	+ ½	3.7	16.4
372½	156	Settle-Rvc	372½	− 6½	1.3	30.6
1093½	750	Siebe†	976	+ 6½	1.8	20.2

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
84	30	Simon Eng	40	− ½	2.0	14.9
301	127½	Six Hundred	147½		4.0	2.9
833½	622	Smiths Ind	783½	+ 8½	2.6	20.1
786¼	593	Spirax-Sarco	645		2.7	18.0
324	283½	Sterling Ind	286		3.9	14.4
593½	456	TI	535	+ 4	3.2	19.1
124	92	Tinsley (E)	113½	..	6.5	11.8
121	72	Transtec	118½	+ 2	2.4	21.2
212½	140	Triplex Lloyd	193½	.	4.5	10.9
167½	137	Unicorn Intl	167½		4.1	14.9
82½	47½	Utd Inds	65	− ½	4.7	18.3
302	241	Vickers	271	− ½	3.2	16.7
14	8¼	Wilkes Grp	9¾			
770	621	Vitec	633½	− 1½	2.2	11.8
952	750	Vosper Thorny	938	− 1	3.2	15.7
436	293	Wagon Ind	325½	− 1	7.6	10.0
273½	203½	Weir	212½	+ 3	4.5	13.2
275	228	Wellingtn Hdg	256½		3.8	15.9
59	25	Wellman	30	+ 1½	7.5	6.6
60½	26	Wescol	58½	.	2.1	22.4
575	363	Whatman	535	− 1½	2.9	21.9
122	42½	Widney†	54½	.	8.0	76.4

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
151	109	Adwest	131	...	7.6	18.1
295	180	Airflow Stream	195	..	5.1	8.4
753½	473	Avon Rubber	748	.	3.3	14.5
107	57¼	BSG	105½	.	3.9	16.4
353	227½	Bentsom	257½	.	3.3	10.8
29	15	Boustead#	16½	.	7.6	38.7
707	431	First Tech	691½	.	1.7	20.5
1186	778	GKN	960	+ 14	3.2	16.6
3800	2850	General Mtr	3287½	.	3.8	..
669	497	Henlys	545	− 1½	3.5	12.6
1954¾	1312½	Honda Motor	1954¾	+ 48	0.4	..
502	358½	Laird	358½	− 1½	4.3	10.9
382	172	LucasVarity	206½	+ 3½	0.0	..
158½	91	Mayflower	158	+ 2	1.8	
193	145	Sytone	172½	+ 3	4.3	12.7
190½	120½	T & N	159½	− 2	4.7	11.2
116	39½	Toad	40			
433	252½	Trinity Hldgs	327½	+ 14	3.2	16.7

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
506½	355	AB Food	481	− 6	2.5	15.8
311½	233	Acatos & Hutch†	300	.	4.2	40.5
53	38½	Albert Fisher	42½	.	11.0	10.3
325	265	Banks (S C)†	294	.	4.8	11.1
405	313	Barr (AG)†	390½	.	2.8	21.2
43	21	Bensons Crisps	40½	.	3.1	10.2
418½	342	Booker	344½	+ 2	8.5	13.5
39	20½	Borthwick	27	.	6.0	34.1
507	167	CPL Aromas	306	.	3.1	10.4
567	464	Cadbury-Schw	510	+ 3½	4.0	17.2
97½	85	Canadian Pizza	85	− 1½	6.8	..
348	298	Carrs Milling	319	.	4.1	10.3
112	88	Cavaghan†	75½	.	6.1	..
235½	171	Cranswick	235	.	5.1	13.8
225	182½	Dairy Crest Group	220	..	5.2	10.9
444	297½	Dalgety	329	− ½	8.6	28.0
47½	30½	Daniels S	38½	.	0.6	
381½	215	Devro	276½	− 1	3.6	27.3
90½	61	Finlay (James)	90½	.	5.0	17.3
774	185	Geest	257½	.	3.9	

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
364½	252	American Trust	349½	+ 2	2.0	59.2
533½	463	Anglo & O'seas	526½	+ 5	1.8	
98½	79	Asst Dtrs	95		0.3	
144	80½	Baillie Gifford SJ	82			
238	205	Bankers†	226½	+ 1	2.6	31.2
97	37½	Baring Em Eu	94½	− ¾		
414½	364	Baring Tribune	411½	+ 1½	2.4	
107	91½	Br Assets†	104½	+ ¾	5.6	18.2
116½	94	Br Empire Sec	113½	+ ½	1.1	
237½	220½	Br Inv	237		3.0	36.8
84	65	Brasilian	84	+ 1½	1.8	
323	259	Brunner	313	+ ½	2.5	44.8
132	113	BZW Cam	120½	+ ¾	8.1	14.2
635	469	Candover	637½		2.6	38.3
79	53	Central Euro Gwth	75½		0.7	
243	177	Contl Asset	242	+ ½	1.6	
78½	62	Dorse Inv Inc†	75½	+ ½	13.7	7.9
447½	325	Derby Cap	447½	+ 2½		
177½	136	Derby Inc†	166½	+ 1	19.3	7.2
757½	654	Drayton Inc G	750	− 5	4.7	26.2

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
377½	314	Dunedin Smlr	374½	...	3.0	39.3
177	153½	Dunedin Wrldw	165	+ 1	1.4	66.0
115½	82½	Edin Dragon	90	..	..	..
30½	22½	Edinburgh Inca	29½	..		
371½	312½	Edinburgh	365½	+ ½	3.5	31.7
177	102½	EFM Japan	116½	+	..	
502	362	Electra Inv	471	− ½	2.2	44.1
267½	222	Electric Gen	265	+ 1½	1.8	57.2
267½	43	English Nat	223	.	0.2	.
156	139	English Scott	153½	+ ½	..	
419½	332	European Asset	387	+ ½	1.3	..
108½	88½	Fidelity Asian Val	103½	.		
252½	193	Fidelity Euro Val	249½	+ ¾	.	
85½	40½	Fidelity Jap Val	41¾	+ ½	0.3	
136½	102	Fidelity Spec Val	132½	+ ½	0.5	
223¾	171½	Finsbury 'A'	222½	+ 1	2.2	50.1
200½	162½	Five Arr Chile	188½	+ ½	1.6	55.8
43½	25	Five Arr Wts	37			
431½	273	Fleming Amer	426	+ 2½	0.8	
75½	54	Fleming Chinese	74½	+ 1	0.8	
44	17	Fleming Ch Wts	28½			
321½	250	Fleming Claver	321	+ 1½	2.6	
428	343	Fleming Contl	419	+ 2	1.2	
160	110½	Fleming Em Mkts	139	...	0.2	..
273	227½	Fleming Entp	250½	.	2.7	31.5
388	266	Fleming F East	272½	− ½	0.6	
464	395	Fleming Fledg	420½	.	0.8	
110½	100½	Fleming Ing Inc†	108	.	11.0	
155	99	Fleming Ing Cap	155	+ 3		
71½	38¼	Fleming Indian	50¼	+ 2		
41	17½	Fleming In Wts	21¼	+ ¼		
280	170	Fleming Japan	180½	+ 2		
376½	286	Fleming Merc	371	+ 1	2.7	39.4
123	95	Fleming Nat Res	114	+ ½	0.8	
366	317	Fleming Overst	345	+ 2	1.7	70.9
159½	128	Fleming Smllr Cot	157½	.	3.8	33.2
171	146¼	Foreign & Col	159	+ 1½	1.7	73.5
113	87	F&C Inc Gwth	93	− 1½	4.8	27.3
116	85	F&C Emg Mkts	107½	+ ¼		
142½	85½	F&C Enterprise	141½	.	1.1	
331	267	F&C Eurotst	323	+ 1	0.5	
146½	125	F&C German	144½	.	0.5	
207	156¼	F&C Pacific	158	.	1.5	55.0
149½	134	F&C PEP	148½	.	3.6	33.8
200	166½	F&C Smaller	181	+ ½	1.7	72.1
147	122½	F&C US Smlr	130½	+ 1½	...	
61	50	Franklin Inc†	61	...	10.2	10.9
82½	58	Franklin Cap	81	+ 1½		
63	40½	Framl Dual Cp	62	+ ½		
18	11	Fulcrum Cap	17½	+ ¼		
36	26½	Fulcrum Inc	27½	.	37.5	2.3
179	161	Fulcrum Zero	179			
251½	203	Gartmore Brit	250½	+ 1½	4.2	
248	203	Gartmore Ent	245	.	2.2	47.5
209½	172	Gartmore Euro	209	.	0.8	..
90	69½	Gartmore Shrdt	86½	.	14.3	8.9
371½	243	G'more Smlr Coc	364½	.	2.0	67.8
88	67	Geared Inc Inv†	87	...	12.4	9.8
220½	151	Genl Cons Cap	219			
108½	100	Genl Inc	108	.	12.0	9.8
122½	96	German Inv	122½	.	0.6	..
266½	209	Gov Asn S/p Cos	260½	.	0.3	..
121	92½	Gov Emg Mkts	112	.	0.3	
243	177	Govett Am Smlr	186	+ ½		
99	82½	Gov Gldb Smlr	88½			
85¾	65½	Govett High Inc†	82	.	8.5	14.1
218	157½	Govett Oriental	185½	+ 1½	0.5	
364	287	Govett Strategic	361	+ 4½	2.5	42.8
503	437	Greenfriar†	485	.	1.8	69.1
11	6	Gresham House	9¼	.		1.7
116½	93½	GT Inc Gwth	116	+ ½	3.5	
258	168½	GT Japan†	184½	+ ½	1.1	79.3
100	78	Galo H Er Inc	98½	− ½	9.7	11.8
48	35	Henderson Am Cp	48½			
107	100	Henderson Am In	106	.	9.2	11.9

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
137	74½	INVESCO Korea	81½	+ ½		
63½	36½	INVESCO Tokyo	40½	+ ¾		
95½	65	J Fry 2nd U	89	.	10.1	11.1
94½	66½	J Fry Euro U	93½	− ½	5.9	15.0
280	137½	JF Fledg Jap	140	+ 1		
108	74	Jupiter Ex Inct	106	+ 1	9.3	10.4
13	3½	Jupiter Ex IncWt	12½			
86	70	Jupiter Grd Capt	83½		11.7	10.6
35	24½	Jupiter Grd Ptd	34½			
134½	108	Jupiter Intl Grn	132½	..	3.5	..
335½	252	Kiwi Chrt†	333½		2.2	
130	98¾	Kleinwt E Mkt	112	+ ¾		

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
170½	133	Klnwrt Endr	160½	+ ½		
96	74	Klnwt H Inct	93½	+ ½	13.2	9.9
301½	261	Klnwt O'seas†	297	+ 1	1.7	79.1
188½	136	Klnwt Smlr	187½		2.2	56.5
597	286	Korea—Euro	318½	− 2½	0.4	
134	85¼	Latin American	132½	+ ½		
1035	913	Law Debenture	946½	+ ½	3.0	31.7
131½	99	Lloyds Sm Cap	131			
27	22	Lloyds Sm Div	24½		19.6	6.3
157	136	Lloyds Sm Ptg	156		3.1	40.2
174	151	Lon St Lawrence	166½		4.7	26.7
353	289	Lowland	315	− ½	4.4	24.5
695	573	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	680	+ 5		

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
38½	22½	Mercury Eur Wt	37½			
110	83½	Mercury World	96	+ ½	1.5	79.5
37	6½	Mercury Wld Wts	12½			
657½	567	Monks Inv Tst	654	+ 4	1.9	50.1
179	151	Morg Gren Inc	176½	+ ½	4.3	28.1
72½	52½	Morg Wts	71½			
91	57¾	Morg Lat Amer	87½	− ½	0.4	
35½	20	Morg Wts	33½			
137	111	Murray Eur	128		2.8	37.4
34	13½	Murray Eur Wts	18			
95	69	Murray Emg Eco	83½		0.6	
35½	14½	Murray Em Ec Wt	19½			
73	54	Murray Euro	72½		0.8	
398½	338	Murray Incm†	392½	+ 1½	4.4	29.1
456½	377	Murray Intl	455½	+ 1½	3.7	
198½	180	Murray S/C DP	196			

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
195½	135	Murray S/C Cap	193½	+ 1½		
73½	66	Murray S/C Inc†	67	.	21.5	5.4
3750	2850	Murray S/C Uts†	3550	...	4.1	
511	419	Murray Small	476	+ ½	1.3	70.3
402½	355	Murray Vent	398½	.	4.6	22.3
9	5½	Newmarket	5½			
415	353½	O'seas Inv Tst	394½	+ 2	1.2	
218	156½	O'seas Wts	202½	+ 2		
147	112	Pacific Assets	119	.	0.4	
109	89	Perp Inc Gth	108	.	2.0	
93½	46	Perpetual Jap	47½	+ ¾		
368½	287	Perpt Uk Sm Co	360	.	0.5	76.0
£136½	£111½	Personal Assets	£136	.	2.1	46.9
126½	103	Pilot Inv	125	.	3.1	51.4
131½	108	Prolific Inc	131½	+ 1	4.5	30.2
251½	210	RIT Cap Pinr	247	.	0.8	
525	450	Robeco	518	− 4	2.2	
542	475	Rolinco	526½	− 4½	1.2	
120½	97	Schrd Asia Pac	103½	.	0.2	
134½	110	Schrod Inc Gwth	133½	...	3.7	25.3
95	51	Schrod Jap Gwth	56	+ ½		
927½	403½	Schrod Korea	463½	− 14½		
27¾	18½	Schrod Split Cap	27¼	+ ¾	...	
112½	92	Schrod Split Inct	112½	+ 1	9.1	..
146½	128½	Schrod Split Zero	145½			
137½	117	Schrod UK Gwth	134	.	2.8	26.2
301½	181	Schrod Vent Intl	198½	− ½		
298½	254	Scot	284	+ 1½	2.5	47.7
181½	159	Scot American	176½	+ 1¼	3.7	35.4
358	277	Scot Asian	304	+ ½		
1095	679	Scot Wts	845	+ 6		
111½	92¾	Scot Eastern	109½	+ ¼	2.2	
302	253	Scot Mtge	295½	+ 1½	2.0	49.8
100	88	Scot Natl Tst†	97½	+ ¼	10.8	11.4
125½	106½	Scot Value	122½	.	2.0	60.7
2126	1823	Second Alliance†	2087½	+ 10	2.9	41.1
109	88	Secs Tst of Scot	107½	+ ¾	4.2	38.8
155½	130	Shires Smlr†	152	.	4.9	24.4
385	345	St Andrew Inv	384	.	3.1	
409½	329½	Temple Bar†	396	+ 1	6.1	22.6
127	90	Thmn Asian E	125			
87¼	73	Throgmorton†	85	.	3.4	
157½	125½	Tetton Emg Mkt	150	− ½	0.8	
191½	152	TR City Of Lon†	191½	+ ½	4.0	29.5
176½	96½	TR Euro Growth†	166½	+ 1½	2.6	
193	169	TR Far East†	180½	.	4.7	27.3
135	109	TR High Inc	130½	.	6.1	18.1
131	104½	TR Pacific	116	+ ½	0.3	
39	27¼	TR Property	37½	.	3.3	27.8
241½	203½	TR Smlr Cost	238	.	2.1	44.1
363	167	TR Tech Invt	344½	+ 1	3.6	43.0
283½	180	Turkey Trust	268	− 5½	1.7	
182	111	Undervalued Ast	169½	+ ½	1.8	59.0
148½	124	Value Inc Tst	147½	.	3.8	33.4
88	65½	Value Real	88			
99½	77	Voyageur Er Sm	99	..	0.7	
36½	29½	Warrants & Val	35½			
88	56	Wigmore	82½	.	1.8	52..
288½	248	Witan†	287½	+ 3	2.9	46.4
85	74	Yeoman Inc†	81	.	23.3	5.2

LEISURE & HOTELS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
121	72½	ABI Lsr	88	.	6.9	8.6
1005	361	Airtours	1003½	.	2.0	20.5
60½	37	Ald Lds	45	.	2.3	25.8
54½	33½	Acadian	50½	.	2.5	65.5
198	125	BS Group	155	.	3.6	
173	95½	Baldwin	132½	.	3.8	
239	211½	Barr & Wall	211½	.	5.5	13.1
363	140	Bluebird Toys	185	.	6.3	
817½	478	Boosey Hwks	750	− 2½	1.2	34.6

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
31½	19	Kunick	27	− ¼	3.2	17.7
245½	143	Ladbroke	227	− 2	3.3	30.0
401¾	212½	London Clubs	384	+ 3	2.6	25.4
231	145	MacDonald Htls	225½	− 1	2.2	24.5
733½	188	Man Utd	645	.	1.0	43.0
96½	77½	Mandarin Oril	85½	+ ½	4.0	19.3
395½	278	Millennium & Cop	395	+ 12	1.5	16.5
231	89	Northern	223½		2.4	22.8
188½	114	Prism Leisure†	183½	.	4.2	9.9
38	28	Queensborough	35			
32	11¾	Queens Moat	14½			
547	398	Rank Grp	429½	+ 7½	5.1	43.0

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
47	31	Ryan Hotels E	46		4.7	9.3
1525	930	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1410		1.2	56.0
223½	171½	Sinclair (Wm)†	221		4.6	12.6
153½	45	Southampton	86½	− 3½	1.4	
110½	75¼	Stakis†	106	− 1	2.5	17.3
373	167½	Stanley Leisure	313	+ 1	1.4	31.1
20½	6½	Tandem	8½			
346	346	Tanjong†	346		1.4	22.3
210	155	Thistle Hotels	198	− 8	2.4	19.2
142	44½	Tottenhm Hot	112½	− 2	1.0	15.0
127½	85	Toy Options	99½	+ 1	4.4	8.1
350	234½	VCI	261½	+ ½	3.4	14.8
138	78½	Vardon	120½	+ ½	2.0	

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
697	376	BSkyB†	630½	+ 9	1.2	40.9
188	113½	CIA Gp	162½		1.7	18.8
734	516½	Capital Radio	568	+ 7½	2.8	19.4
577½	379½	Carlton Commt	547½	+ 6	2.5	17.3
812½	363	Chrysalis†	777½	+ 10	0.4	
93	72½	City of Lon	82½		7.9	11.0
138	89½	Cordiant	98½			
1731¼	1300	Daily Mail	1659½	− 6½	1.5	27.2
1668¾	1168¾	Daily Mail 'A'	1596¼		1.5	26.2
646	336	Dorling Kind	336½	− 6	1.7	21.5
831½	530	EMAP	739	− 10½	2.0	25.5
1408	1085½	EMI†	1193	+ 31½	2.9	29.3
1091	845½	Elsevier	998	+ 15½	1.9	29.7
1515	1030	Euromoney Pbl	1442½		4.0	20.2
49	19	Fitch†	45¼		1.1	
803½	440	Flextech	759	− 1		

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
251	198	GGT Group#	220	.	3.4	15.5
259¾	168½	GWR Gp	221	.	1.5	38.3
387½	200	Gearbox Group†	382½	− 3	2.0	19.1
33½	18	Goodwin†	31½	.	1.0	19.2
327½	217	Grampian	275	.	2.8	22.0
401	284	HTV Group	360½	− 3	1.4	32.5
335	232½	Haynes Pub	280	..	4.9	12.6
27	17	Highbury Hse	20			
260	199	Hodder H'line	219	.	3.7	22.1
285	145	Home Counts	265	.	2.6	30.2
334	273	IBC	323	.	3.2	12.1
23½	10½	Incepta	23	+ ½	.	15.6
342½	232	Independent	330	.	3.0	39.1
110	95	Infoscape	105	.	4.6	12.5
207½	134½	Johnston Press	202½	...	1.4	22.0
32½	13	Lopex	25½	.	2.6	.
343	140	MAID	175	+ 5		
330	220	Maiden	316	.	1.9	37.9
71	26½	Mediakey	30½	− 2½	3.9	
1265	647	Metal Bulletin	1230	.	1.7	38.0
155	108	Midland Ind	145	+ 2½	3.1	22.2
241	175	Mirror Gp	210½	+ 3	2.5	15.5
707½	447½	More Grp	688	+ 2	2.7	19.2
393	302½	News Corp	328	+ 3½	0.4	8.8
303¼	251½	News Corp Pref	278½	+ 1	1.3	.
224½	33½	On Demand Inf	39½			
42	20	Osprey Comms	36	.		11.8
787½	594	Pearson	775	− 3½	2.8	31.1
205	43	Phonelink	76	+ 1		
827½	575	Portsmth Sund	827½	+ 7½	2.0	16.7
316	226½	Quarto	238½	.	4.3	
1220	980	Reed Intl	1142½	+ 5	2.8	20.5
814	586	Reuters	669½	+ 6	2.3	21.3
404	256	Scot Radio	385½	− 1	2.5	20.7
806	488	Scot TV	661	+ 8½	3.6	21.0
62½	36	Standwick†	56	− ½	3.2	
42	16	Sleepy Kids	19½	.	0.8	7.3
519	267	Southnews	500	.	1.5	27.4
30½	23	Sterling Pub	25½	.		50.1
55½	35	Taylor Nelson	52½	.	1.8	25.0
280	113	Television Gp	190	+ 1	1.3	...
1403	865	Thomson Corp	1314½	+ 43½	3.5	27.6
505½	342	Trinity Intl	487	.	2.9	25.4
278	160½	Ulster TV	167	.	3.6	16.3
756	555	United News	725	+ 18	4.0	32.1
140	55½	VTR	72½	.	8.2	5.8
263	167½	Visual Action	187½	.	2.8	
270	157	WPP	265	...	0.8	19.2
132½	66	Wilmington	128½	.	0.2	39.8
1315	680	Yorkshire TV	1296½	+ 11½	1.6	37.1

MINING

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
7600	3800	Ang Am Coal	4328½	+ 6½	3.2	
4990¾	3071¾	Ang Am	3903½	− 3½	2.1	15.6
7387½	4268¾	Ang Am Gold	4940¾	+ 65½	3.1	
27½	13½	Anglo Pac Res	19			
46½	23	Arcon Intl	44	+ 2½		
1809¾	716½	Ashanti	918½	− 18½	2.0	
121	80	Ashton	95½	− 1½	5.9	
245	128½	Avocet	241	+ 4		
595	172½	Bakyrchik	202½			
698½	339½	Bestry	366½	+ ½	5.3	17.1
33	26½	Bisichi	30		3.1	
148½	52	Blyvoors	81			
34	18¼	Bougainville	30¼	+ 2		
2½	0½	Buffelsf	0½			
1142	854½	CRA	924	+ 12½	3.7	18.0
504½	93	Central Pacific	477½	− 7½		
210	77½	Cons Murchsn	85		5.7	2.9
2269¾	1646¼	De Beers	2190¾	+ 43½	2.2	27.3

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
368	224½	Ivory Sime	251½		4.3	17.2
230½	183½	Jardine Strat	201½	+ ½	3.4	
177½	98	Johnson Fry	132		3.8	5.8
485	405	Leopold J	485		5.0	28.7
488½	328	Liberty Intl	487½	+ 17½	4.2	27.9
432½	218	Lon Forfaiting	417	− 2	3.3	15.4
261	210½	London Pacific†	227½	− ½	7.9	
117	87½	Lon Scot Bkt	106	+ 2	3.5	19.5
197½	139	Man ED & F	195	+ 1½	6.6	10.5
1397½	1040½	M & G	1390	+ 7½	3.3	23.3
1407½	841	MAM	1368½	+ 24½	3.6	22.9
178½	90½	Nat Home Loan	167½	− 4	1.8	8.1
2695	1830	Perpetual	2632½	+ 7½	2.7	19.5
612½	395	Provident†	581½	+ 1	3.5	19.8
336	302½	Rathbone Bs	331½		4.0	14.8
67	49½	Rea Brothers	50½		2.5	19.8

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
64½	37½	Rutland Tst	59¾	..	2.7	17.7
122½	42	SEC Group	115	+ 2	5.2	10.3
457	290	S & U	442½		4.7	11.2
1782½	1185	Schroders	1687½	+ 5	1.3	19.2
1577½	890	Schroders N/V	1482½	+ 7½	1.5	16.9
155	99½	Singer & Fried	156	+ 2	3.4	11.4
57	33	Towry Law	40	..		
8	3¼	Ino Hldgs	3½			
115½	71	Union	99	− 1	3.8	10.6
360	268	Waltrust†	335	..	4.8	15.8

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
350	163½	Brit Biotech	251	− 4		
945	340	Cantab Pharms	907½	− 27½	..	
693	441	Celltech	650	− 2½	..	
588	224	Chiroscience	393½	− 3½		
447	149½	Cortecs	230	+ 5		
1056	767	Glaxo Well	1056	+ 12	3.6	19.0
475	194	ML Laboratories	232½	− 3		60.8
317½	208	Medeva†	310	− 4½	1.9	
409	175½	Peptide Thera	373½	− 4		
97	24½	Proteus Intl	65	+ 4		
808	524	Scotia	622½	− 5		
266	179	Shire Pharms	219	− 5½		
96	64½	SkyePharma	85½			
947½	628½	SmithKline†	921	+ 17	2.2	24.3
532	299½	Therap Antibod	386	− 1		
707½	457½	Vanguard	682½		...	...
360	192	Xenova	355			
1899	1216	Zeneca	1882½	+ 46	2.1	41.0

PRINTING & PAPER

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
155½	127½	AG Holdings	141	..	5.3	11.7
782	547	API	724	+ 4	1.9	23.0
140	47½	App Holo	57½			
212	149	Arjo Wiggins	164	+ 3	5.7	..
295	87½	Aspen Coms	300	+ 4	3.9	15.7
20½	12½	Bath Press	19¼		2.9	10.8
450½	338	Bemrose	450½	+ 1	4.1	15.0
229½	138	Blagden	286½	− 2	1.5	17.5
2725	2037½	Bowater Inc	2576	− 43½	1.1	25.3
346½	309½	Bowmore Intl	320½		3.4	
770	645	Br Polythene	682½	− 12½	...	
38	15½	Br Thornton	15½			
168	121	Britton Grp	124		3.1	10.6
245½	191	Bunzl	218	+ 5½	3.4	13.5
233½	170¾	Capital Inds	206½		3.2	14.4
388½	279	Cropper (James)	377½		1.4	13.8
756	526½	De La Rue	615½	− 4½	4.9	15.7
95	73	Delyn Group#	74½		3.4	14.8
224½	131	Dolphin Pack	218½	− 1½	3.3	17.8
117½	66½	Fairway Group	67		7.8	
287	190	Ferguson Intl	223		7.4	11.8
275	127½	Filofax†	155½		2.8	11.7
177	112	Inveresk	121½	− ½	6.2	45.1
310	186½	Jarvis Porter	242½	+ ½	3.6	14.3
574	387	Low & Bonar	449½		4.2	11.7
126½	86	MY Holdings	123½		2.4	18.8
263	166	Macfarlane	195		2.5	16.4
134	89½	Nobo Grp†	95	..	8.2	7.1
442	282	Photobition	432½	+ 16½	1.9	22.0
201	156½	Plysu	176½		5.2	17.3
41	26	Porter Chadbn	31		1.0	11.2
410	317½	REXAM	328		5.4	15.7
545½	425½	St Ives Gp	544½		2.3	30.0
1047¾	469¾	Sappi	497½	− 5½	3.9	
8	1¾	Sant	2¼			
148	82	Sidlaw	102½		2.4	
344	241½	Smith David†	261½	+ 15½	3.7	8.8
184	147	Smurfit (Jeff)	155½		3.1	5.5
89	74	Sonic	86½		4.3	8.9
284	54	Wace	88	− ½	8.5	9.7
338½	196	Waddington	326	− 1	3.8	18.2
481	373	Watmough	426½	− 3	2.9	18.5
343	180	Wyndeham	206	+ 2	2.8	14.8

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
209½	148½	MFI	156½	− 4½	3.7	15.2
533	416½	Marks Spencer	488½	− 9	3.0	19.3
635	445	Menzies (John)†	468	− 1	3.7	12.2
26½	15½	Merchant Retail	24½		..	28.8
1405	816	Moss Bros	1405	..	1.7	28.6
613	420	Next	590½	+ 1	2.7	24.8
63	30½	Oliver (G)	31½			
565	400	Ottrane Intl	507		3.1	15.6
85½	66	Partridge Fine	73½	+ 1	5.4	
56	28½	QS Hldgs	38		5.1	..
337½	191	Rosebys	329½	− 1	3.1	
105	79	Sears	81½	− ½	6.1	86.4
34½	14¼	Signet Group	32	+ ¼		
534	399	Smith WH†	454	− ½	4.3	...
1110	829	Sotheby's†	1042½	+ 5	2.4	
362	246½	Storehouse	371½	− 1½	3.5	18.1
157	90	Stylo	128½		4.8	18.6
231	165½	T & S Stores	176½	..	5.2	11.3
410	190½	Thorn†	186½	− 1	8.9	14.8
188½	159	Tie Rack	187		1.9	18.6
4	2¼	Upton & South	3½		..	35.3
884	481½	Vendome	519½	− 8	2.5	19.2
29½	12	WEW Group	23½	..		
859½	159	Wickes	162½	− 1½	..	
94	52	Wld of Leather	87½	..	2.4	
258½	198	Wyevale	258½	+ 5	3.0	

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1550	883	ADT	1325			
492	314½	AEA Tech	482	+ 7	1.9	32.3
135	92	Alpha Airpts	107	+ 4½	5.8	13.7
43½	26	Alphameric	39½			15.4
387½	215	Atkins WS	343½		2.3	25.8
190	129	BNB Res	182½		4.7	9.8
437½	283	BPP	435		3.3	21.8
203	156	BSM	161½		6.1	
632½	203	BTG	618½	− 12½	8.8	
110½	80	Brooks Service	83½		4.8	13.4
510	373	Business Post	501½	− 4½	2.9	25.6
1180	329	CMG	1135	+ 17½	0.7	51.1
276½	111½	CRT Gp†	229½	+ ½	2.3	28.9
868¾	187	Card Gp	861½	+ 19	0.6	12.8
662½	285	Capita Group	660	+ 6½	0.9	
10¾	5½	Chemex	7¼	..	2.6	17.8
434½	308	Chubb Sec	423½		2.6	28.6
236	92	Corp Services	178½	− 7½	3.8	
59½	46	Coplis Cosby	58½		4.8	18.2
346	73	DCS Gp	270	+ 5½	0.7	34.1
276½	202½	Davis Service	247½		4.9	13.4
910	367	Delphi	815	+ 2½	0.9	
252	98	Dudley Jenkins	232½	− 10	2.1	21.8
82	38	EW Fact	77½	...	2.7	11.9
116	59½	El Data Prnt	88½		3.1	13.3
602	245	FI Group†	576		1.0	48.6
578½	362	Hays	524½	− 12½	2.0	21.7
313½	203½	Hogg Robinson	206½	− ½	5.5	9.5
775	360	JBA Hldgs	775	+ 15	0.7	46.3
311	253	Johnson Clean	287½		4.9	12.8
149	101½	Kalamazoo	104½		5.1	10.8
632	351	Kewill Sys	615	− 5	1.7	16.8
41	13	Laser-Scan	29			
234½	145½	Lavendon	233½	+ 1	1.8	18.2
139	90	Leigh	113	...	4.3	
1007	452	Logica	982½	+ 25	1.1	34.3
115½	68	Lynx Hldgs	109½		2.0	28.4
92	30½	MDIS	54½		2.8	
632	246	MMT Comp	565	+ 24	1.8	24.6
104½	66	MR Group†	89	+ ½	5.1	15.7
530	398	Macro 4†	410		7.5	11.3
92½	47½	Menzimore Abbey†	49½		1.5	..
1340	553	Micro Focus	1065	+ 7½	...	
192	141	Microgen†	171½		5.7	11.4
1245	570	Misys†	1245	+ 12½	1.1	26.3
204½	124	MITIE Gp†	193½	+ 1	1.1	28.8
41	30½	Novo Group	34		5.5	8.4
49½	29½	Orbis†	41	+ 2	3.0	14.4
225	137	P & P	225	+ 3	2.8	
562	168	Page (Michael)	551	+ 1	2.1	17.3
515	173	Parity	495	+ 1½	0.7	40.4
433	300	Pegasus	377		2.0	26.3
158	79	Penna	145	− 6½	1.7	
169	106½	Photo-Me	145	− 1	4.4	17.9
42	11	Proudfoot	14½	..		3.6
272	175	RCO†	227½	..	8.0	25.8
199	105	RPS Group	190½	..	2.7	
84	47	Radius	59		3.1	12.3
314	173	Real Time	230	− 3½	2.2	8.3

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101	100	Treas 7% 1997	100		6.97	6.05
107	100	Exch 10½% 1997	100		10.49	
102	101	Treas 6¾% 1997	101	+	6.64	6.06
114	102	Exch 15% 1997	105	−	14.21	6.06
106	100	Exch 9¾% 1998	102	+	9.47	6.24
109	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	+	7.18	6.32
116	108	Treas 14% 1998-01	108	+	12.87	6.41
122	113	Treas 15½% 1998	117	+	13.69	6.49
114	108	Exch 12% 1998	109	+	11.04	6.52
108	97	Treas 9½% 1999	105	+	9.04	6.57
116	110	Exch 12¼% 1999	110	+	11.06	6.63
112	107	Treas 10½% 1999	107	+	9.74	6.57
99	96	Treas 6% 1999	98	+	6.09	6.61
118	107	Conv 10¼% 1999	108	+	9.44	6.72
109	103	Conv 9% 2000	105	+	8.50	6.78
105	101	Treas 8% 2000	103	+	7.70	6.81
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	118	+	10.99	6.82
114	100	Treas 10% 2001	110	+	9.01	6.90
101	96	Treas 7% 2001	100	+	8.97	6.90

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
122	108	Treas 9¾% 2002	112	+	8.69	7.03
105	99	Treas 8% 2003	104	+	7.63	7.01
117	110	Treas 10% 2003	115 †	+	8.69	7.08
121	114	Treas 11½% 2001-04	115	+	9.92	6.91
90	78	Fund 3½% 1999-04	85	+	4.07	5.87
114	107	Conv 9½% 2004	113	+	8.35	7.12
98	91	Treas 6¾% 2004	97	+	6.09	7.10
109	101	Treas 8½% 2005	108	+	7.85	7.20
122	108	Conv 9½% 2005	114	+	8.33	7.18
131	122	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129	+	9.71	7.11
103	94	Treas 7½% 2006	101	+	7.36	7.21
107	95	Treas 7¾% 2006	103 †	+	7.49	7.25
104	97	Treas 9% 2002-06	103	+	7.76	7.14

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
125	115	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122	+	9.67	7.09
110	101	Treas 8½% 2007	109	+	7.80	7.25
114	103	Treas 9% 2008	113	+	7.96	7.30
108	96	Treas 8% 2009	105	+	7.58	7.35

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
91	81	Treas 6¼% 2010	90	+	6.91	7.41
115	103	Conv 9% 2011	114	+	7.89	7.40
116	104	Treas 9% 2012	115	+	7.86	7.41
87	75	Treas 5½% 2008-12	84	+	6.50	7.17
107	96	Treas 8% 2013	105	+	7.60	7.13
104	93	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	102	+	7.51	7.46
107	95	Treas 8% 2015	105		7.56	7.41
115	102	Treas 8¾% 2017	113		7.7	7.46
108	95	Tr 8% 2021	106	−	7.51	7.40

UNDATED

1996/97 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
47	41	War Ln 3½%	46		7.52	
33	29	Treas 2½%	33	+	7.35	
54	46	Consols 4%	54	+	7.10	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 10% 5%

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Conrail war over

The four-month deadlock in the bidding war for Conrail in America has been broken. Conrail has negotiated an increase in the bid by CSX Corp to $115 a share from $108, valuing the rail company at $10.3 billion. Norfolk Southern, a rival bidder that conceded victory to CSX, will be able to buy about half of Conrail's assets from CSX.

TDG slips

The BSE crisis last year delivered an extra £1 million in profit for Transport Development Group, the logistics and hire company that saw orders to store suspect beef rise. But pre-tax profits fell to £35.2 million (£36.1 million) after the loss of a distribution deal. Earnings rose to 17p a share (16.5p), but the dividend stays at 9.5p, for a final 5.5p.

Darby rises

Darby Group, the manufacturer and distributor of tempered safety glass, made pre-tax profits of £2.1 million (£955,000) in the year to December 31. Earnings were 6.11p a share (5.33p), and a final dividend of 1.2p makes a total of 2.2p (2p).

Upbeat Cala

Cala, the housebuilder and commercial property developer, saw pre-tax profits at £2.7 million (£2.11 million) in the half year to December 31. Earnings were 4.21p a share (3.28p). The interim dividend is 1.3p (1.1p).

Brewery link

Brewery interests in Wales were merged yesterday when SA Brain of Cardiff acquired Crown Buckley of Llanelli for an undisclosed sum. The combined company has 165 pubs.

Clubs deal

Waterfall Holdings, the snooker clubs operator, has bought 12 clubs from Regent Inns for £4.85 million.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

John Robinson, left, and Chris O'Donnell yesterday. Profits were at the low end of analysts' forecasts

Smith & Nephew warns of more wounds in US

By Eric Reguly

SMITH & NEPHEW, the healthcare and medical equipment company, warned the market yesterday that it expects another tough trading year in America, its biggest market, as customers continue to demand price reductions.

The company said that prices, on average, fell by 3 per cent in America during 1996, with orthopaedic implants and woundcare products suffering the sharpest falls. John Robinson, chief executive, said: "We have to assume that prices will decline by a similar amount this year."

Prices are falling because customers, notably hospitals, are banding together to form large buying groups. These HMOs, or health maintenance organisations, are using their market clout to demand volume discounts.

Mr Robinson thinks that the pressure on prices will ease somewhat in 1998. In the meantime, underlying margins are being maintained through cost cutting and sales growth. In the year to the end of December, sales rose by 6 per cent to £1.06 billion.

Pre-tax profits were £182.2 million, compared with £180.4 million, while earnings per share were up by 2 per cent to 11.21p. The results were at the low end of analysts' forecasts.

The strength of both sterling and the dollar compared with the main European currencies depressed profits by 1 per cent and are likely to reduce earnings by about £13 million this year if they remain at their current levels.

Mr Robinson said new products should underpin longer-term growth. Smith & Nephew expects to launch Dermagraft, the first "off-the-shelf" bio-engineered skin, in the American, British and possibly Scandinavian markets in the second half of this year. The product initially will be used to treat diabetic foot ulcers, a market potentially worth £1.5 billion a year.

Smith & Nephew is also developing a bio-engineered cartilage that could be used to repair the damaged knees of athletes. The company is aiming to launch it in 2000.

Mr Robinson, 56, is to become part-time chairman in July, replacing Eric Kinder. The new chief executive will be Chris O'Donnell, 50, who had been Mr Robinson's deputy. Mr O'Donnell joined the company eight years ago and had been responsible for developing its wound management business.

A final dividend of 3.71p, to be paid on July 2, makes the total dividend 6p, up from 5.65p. The shares closed at 184¼p, down 6¾p.

Tempus, page 28

Anger over Renault plan to shed jobs

From Adam Sage in Paris

RENAULT, the French carmaker, was facing industrial conflict last night as unions denounced plans to shed almost 3,000 jobs in France.

The move came less than a week after Renault said it would close a Belgian assembly plant at Vilvoorde, near Brussels, with the loss of 3,100 jobs.

As the recently privatised company prepares to announce losses of more than Fr5 billion for 1996, sources close to the management confirmed reports that Renault would cut 2,764 French jobs this year. Renault will also transfer 1,032 positions within the group, the sources said.

The plans sparked a storm in France yesterday, with unions saying that a one-hour stoppage at Renault plants on Friday would herald widespread strikes.

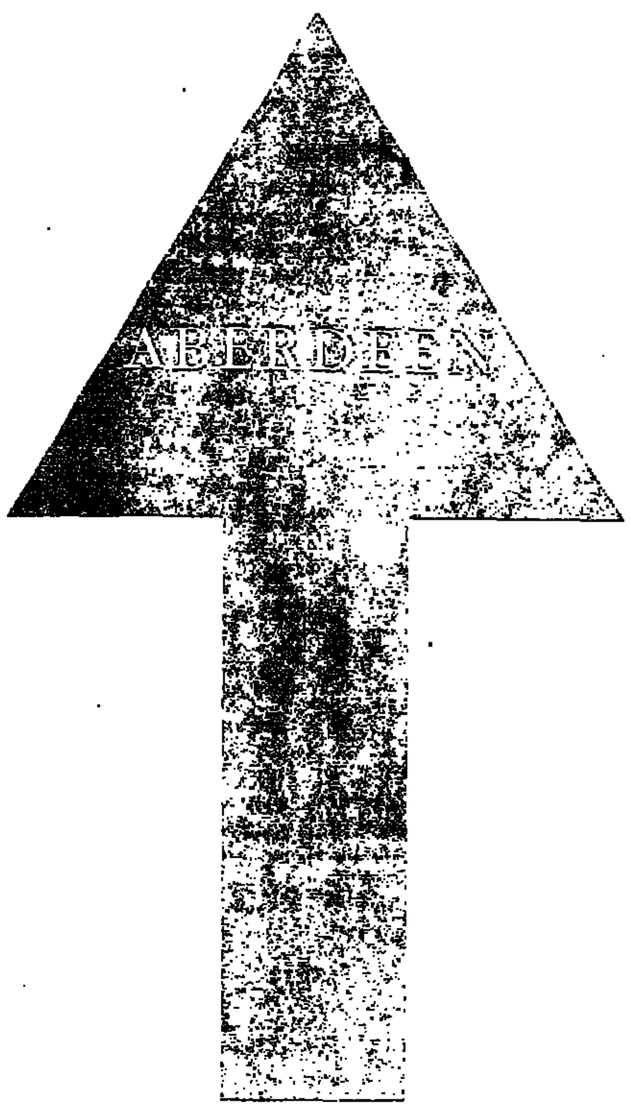
Daniel Richter, of the socialist CFDT union, said: "We hope this is the beginning of a long period of labour struggle at Renault all over Europe."

Franck Borotra, the French Industry Minister, who urged Renault to open negotiations with unions, came under pressure to reconsider the firm's early retirement proposals for 40,000 staff. Under the scheme, which was rejected by the Government last week, Renault said it would replace the older workers with 14,000 younger job-seekers.

The political row echoed criticism of Renault in Belgium, where Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister, has led calls to save the Vilvoorde plant. Belgian unions have called for a boycott of Renault cars and political leaders say they will take legal action against the company.

Renault argues that it has little choice but to streamline. The 1996 results will show a loss for the first time in ten years and, in January, its sales in France fell 20 per cent.

Louis Schweitzer, chairman, says Renault has to cut car prices if it hopes to increase its share of the European market.



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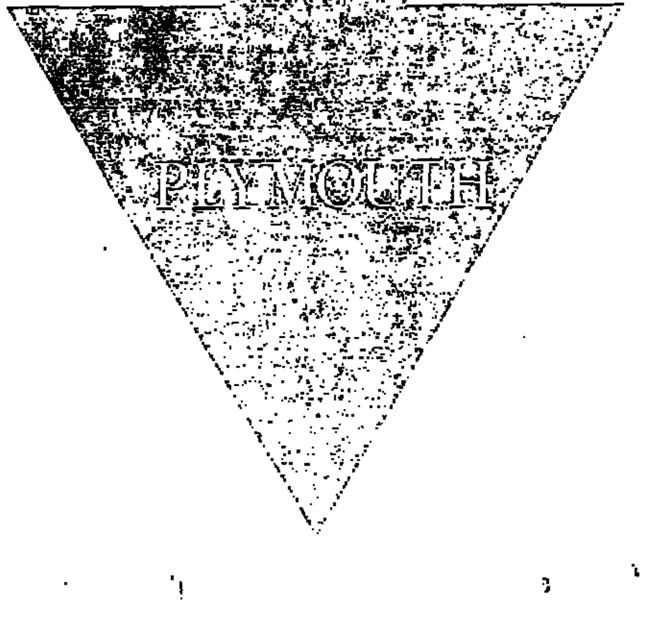

General Accident plc

CONTINUED STRONG PERFORMANCE

1996 RESULTS

	1996 £m	1995 £m – restated
General Premiums	4,356	4,227
Life Premiums	1,848	1,508
Underwriting Result	(212)	(130)
Net Investment Income	549	515
Life Profits	108	79
Operating Profit before Taxation	421	436
Profit Attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	500	382
Operating Earnings per Ordinary Share	61.9p	66.5p

- Operating pre-tax profit of £421 million following record fourth quarter.
- Continued underwriting profits in UK.
- Contribution from life operations increased by 37%.
- Underlying results in United States and Canada show continued improvement.
- Underwriting profits in both New Zealand and Asia.
- Final dividend of 22.85p per share making a total of 34.25p per share for the year, up by 10.5%.
- Net asset value up 4% to £3,506 million, equivalent to 675p per share. Solvency margin 79%.

GA
General Accident

Bob Scott, Group Chief Executive, comments:
"We are confident that we can continue to be successful in the competitive and fast moving environments in which our life and general insurance businesses operate."

THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DERIVED FROM THE 1996 AND 1995 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

General Accident plc, World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH
A copy of the results is available on Internet: http://www.ga.co.uk

Merged insurers report profit rises

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

JARDINE Lloyd Thompson Group, the insurance and reinsurance company formed from the merger of JIB and Lloyd Thompson, published their separate results for the last time yesterday. A second interim report for the 12 months to June 30, 1997, will be issued in September.

At Lloyd Thompson, pre-tax interim profits were up 2 per cent to £10.6 million.

The group confirmed that the proposed interim dividend will be 6.25p, payable on May 16, and that the special dividend of 6p per share will be paid as a foreign income dividend on March 5.

JIB announced separate full-year pre-tax profits up 29 per cent to £27.5 million (1995: £21.3 million) and earnings per share up 34 per cent to 13.5p (10.1p).

The company paid a first interim dividend of 3.5p, as a foreign income dividend, on November 18, 1996. A second interim dividend of 5p (net) will be paid on March 5, 1997, to shareholders on the register on January 28, 1997.

The second interim replaces the final dividend, which would have been paid for the year to December 31, 1996. Total dividends for 1996 amount to 8.5p (net).

Computer Cabs details fare for float

By Oliver August

COMPUTER CABS has unveiled details of its flotation on the Alternative Investment Market to raise £3.3 million for a satellite booking system. Shares will be priced at 80p, giving a market capitalisation of £8.25 million.

Cab drivers will be able to buy discounted shares at 72p. They had entangled the company in legal challenges over the ownership of Mobistar, the satellite system that tracks the position of all cabs.

Geof Kaley, chief executive, said: "Mobistar's leading-edge technology and the ownership of shares in the company by our drivers will further strengthen our business and market position."

The London company has long-term plans to expand to other cities. First dealings are scheduled for April 4.

Serco growth maintained at steady 20%

By Fraser Nelson

SERCO, the engineering support services company, enjoyed its tenth successive year of 20 per cent growth last year, as orders to maintain privatised railway tracks helped profits to rise to £18.3 million (£15.2 million).

The advance of the Private Finance Initiative, and new orders from the Australian Government, combined to lift sales 23 per cent, to £397 million, over the year, as margins held firm at 13 per cent. Earnings were 18.8p, compared with 15p.

The company, which looks after 20 per cent of Britain's railway tracks, said that sales from its newly acquired train testing ground should be about £40 million next year.

A final dividend of 3.8p brings the total to 5.5p (4.7p), and is due on April 14.

Regional brewer to be valued at £109m

USHERS of Trowbridge, the regional brewing company, yesterday set a flotation price of 110p a share, valuing the company at £109 million (Alasdair Murray writes).

Ushers, which owns a brewery and 542 pubs, hopes to raise £38 million from the float that will be used to strengthen the balance sheet and improve the company's potential for expansion. After the placing, Roger North, chief executive, will hold shares valued at £4 million, while Peter Humphrey, production manager, will control shares worth £3.1 million. The directors will own 8.4 per cent of the total capital worth £9 million.

The venture capital backers, led by Schroder Ventures Fund and SBC Equity Partners, will own 49.3 per cent of the company after flotation.

Ushers made profits of £16.4 million in the year to October 31, 1996. Dealings are expected to commence on March 10.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	726.90	772.90	+ 5.40	2.25
General Inc	606.30	645.10	+ 4.60	2.25
UK Growth Acc	503.80	536.00	+ 3.70	2.40
UK Growth Inc	326.00	346.90	+ 2.40	2.40
Higher Inc Acc	900.20	957.70	+ 6.30	3.82
Higher Inc Inc	479.40	510.10	+ 4.30	3.82
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	217.80	229.90	+ 0.40	5.79
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	93.06	98.29	+ 0.17	5.79
Nth America	367.30	390.80	− 0.60	
Europe	393.30	418.50	+ 2.90	0.19
Brit Excell	99.48	105.92	− 0.40	2.51
Brit Fndmtls Acc	126.70	134.80	+ 0.90	4.43
Brit Fndmtls Inc	84.74	90.15	+ 0.61	4.43
Global Opps	105.40	112.20	+ 0.40	
Balanced Acc	67.04	71.32	+ 0.37	2.42
Balanced Inc	62.59	66.59	+ 0.34	2.42
Japan Acc	37.94	40.37		
Pac Basin Acc	410.50	436.80	+ 0.10	0.83
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	134.30	142.50t	+ 0.50	6.67
High Inc Equity	197.50	211.20	+ 1.70	4.50
Worldwide Bond	270.00	286.20t	+ 0.30	4.20
American Growth	430.30	459.90	+ 3.80	0.36
Asian Pacific	341.90	365.70	+ 1.50	0.38
Assets & Earnings	325.00	347.60	− 1.40	2.72
Euro Capital Acc	202.30	218.40	− 1.40	0.73
Extra Inc	42.91	45.67t	+ 0.14	8.01
General	293.10	311.80t	+ 1.20	2.80
Global Opps	75.00	79.79	+ 0.33	0.50
Japan	90.00	96.36	− 0.26	
Managed Inc	49.63	52.80t	+ 0.24	4.26
Mastertrust	176.80	189.10	+ 0.50	1.27
US Emerging Cos	188.90	201.00	+ 1.30	
Ethical	89.43	95.17	− 0.20	1.65
International	141.00	150.00	+ 0.80	0.58
Dividend & Growth	72.85	77.50	− 0.56	4.34
Global Gwth & Sec	74.81	79.97	− 0.05	2.53
Latin America	80.74	85.89	+ 0.49	0.45
Capital Reserve	147.70	147.80		4.61
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	97.96	104.20	+ 1.07	2.28
Equity Income	137.50	146.30	+ 1.30	4.09
Extra Income	265.70	282.60	− 1.90	6.30
Smaller Cos	115.70	123.00	− 0.30	1.44
International	118.20	125.70	+ 1.10	1.34
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2580.00	2681.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	167.29	179.89	+ 0.23	0.74
UK Equity	105.40	112.56	+ 0.82	3.18
UK Equity & Bd	61.88	65.57	− 0.31	6.17
UK Smlr Cos	55.92	59.81t	− 0.05	1.57
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	823.99	836.45		4.09
Fxd Int Sec	161.95	162.59		8.80
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	813.68	825.98		4.16
Investment Acc	£37.98	£38.56		
Fixed Int Inc	130.61	131.73		8.65
Fixed Int Acc	243.30	244.28		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Int	90.01	94.88		5.28
Beck Bio-Tech	47.92	52.00		
Accum Ethical Tst	192.92	202.58		0.42
City Fin Assets	83.54	87.72		1.76
City Fin Int	91.29	95.86		0.13
Friars Hse Cap	327.60	348.51		2.28
Buckley Wrld Gth	143.98	152.62		
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	61.08	64.14		3.24
Shaw Utilities	66.37	67.89	+ 0.66	6.53
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.62	63.26t	+ 0.19	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0345 772 233				
American Gwth	83.60	88.94	+ 0.48	
Dragon Growth	75.03	80.24	+ 0.01	0.25
Equity High Inc	98.49	105.52t	+ 0.80	3.58
-do- Accum	144.37	154.69	+ 1.17	3.58
Extra Income Inc	27.47	28.93	+ 0.02	6.82
Extra Income Acc	30.66	32.30	+ 0.03	6.82
European Gwth	67.76	71.89	+ 0.61	0.41
Evergreen	31.90	34.11	+ 0.01	
General Equity	115.34	122.38	+ 0.91	2.51
Japan Growth	38.43	40.88	− 0.04	
Pedigree Gwth	69.26	74.33	+ 0.46	2.01
Pen Sm Cos Inc	41.21	44.31	+ 0.03	1.05
-do- Accum	43.92	47.23	+ 0.02	1.05
Retirement Inc #	30.09	32.05	+ 0.18	5.50
Special Sits	51.17	55.02	+ 0.14	2.48
UK & Overseas	63.41	67.28	+ 0.48	0.56
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD 01634 888 000				
Balanced	74.50	77.60t	+ 0.50	3.89
Capital	90.02	93.77t	+ 0.79	2.44
High Income	53.72	55.95t	+ 0.04	8.65
Top 50	61.74	64.31t	+ 0.70	2.38
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	212.50	226.00	− 0.30	
Income #	243.83	259.30	+ 0.57	4.00
UK Growth	95.33	101.41	+ 0.37	1.82
Intl Growth	92.02	97.89t	+ 0.45	0.57
Ecology	111.59	118.71	− 0.35	0.88
European	227.49	242.02	+ 0.10	0.21
Far Eastern	315.50	335.60	− 2.10	
UK Special Sits	60.27	64.28	− 0.04	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.37	60.12	+ 0.20	
High Income #	55.29	58.97	+ 0.24	4.75

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD Dealing: 01277 281 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	108.73	115.67	+ 1.11	0.39
Intl Bond	63.54	66.74	+ 0.10	4.70
Intl Equity Growth	88.50	93.99	+ 0.58	0.95
N Amer Growth	151.83	161.22t	+ 1.82	0.75
Special Sits Growth	30.50	32.44t	+ 0.22	1.99
UK Growth	501.06	533.04	+ 4.03	2.41
-do- Accum	691.92	736.08	+ 5.57	2.41
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01626 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1501.00	1522.50		2.80
Income #	1069.80	1086.10t		4.00

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GAIC

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	103.10	106.50t		6.84
Euro Priv Inc	110.00	117.00	+ 0.80	2.75
-do- Accum	110.00	117.00	+ 0.80	2.75
Gilt Yield	121.20	127.80t	+ 0.30	6.33
Global Income	245.00	260.60t	+ 1.70	3.06
High Yield	172.70	183.70	+ 2.30	5.08
-do- Accum	576.80	613.60	+ 8.00	5.08
Money Market	98.96	98.96t	+ 0.02	5.40
Smlr Cos Div	66.60	70.85t	− 0.08	1.79
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.350	10.48		
Capital Growth Trusts				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	182.00	185.80		3.33
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 0800 363432				
M & S Inv Pfolio	189.40	195.30t	+ 1.40	2.33
-do- Accum	227.00	234.00t	+ 1.60	2.33
UK Sel Pfolio	170.60	175.90	+ 1.60	2.37
-do- Accum	207.70	214.10	+ 1.90	2.37
UK 100 Cos	128.10	128.10	+ 1.50	2.61
-do- Accum	131.40	131.40	+ 1.60	2.61
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD 01204 364 642				

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاهالي

■ CIRCUS

A sensation in Paris, Philippe Decouflé's surreal and mesmerising *Decodex* makes its British debut

■ POP

Paul Rodgers turns the clock back in Shepherds Bush, to the delight of his middle-aged fans

THE TIMES ARTS

■ JAZZ

Homage to the late Ronnie Scott comes in a fine gig by Jean Toussaint's New York Vibes

■ TOMORROW

Nicholson and Caine in *Blood and Wine*, plus reviews of all the other top new movies

Donald Hutera meets Philippe Decouflé, whose stunning circus-theatre *Decodex* opens here this week

Ringmaster totally over the Big Top

When *Decodex* opened in the autumn of 1995, Paris was in the middle of a transport strike. Even so, Philippe Decouflé's magic cocktail of choreographed circus-theatre, staged at Bobigny's Maison de la Culture on the city's northeastern edge, was a triumph. Those who couldn't drive got there by bike, on foot, or hitched a ride. The two-month show was an instant sell-out.

The Paris Métro is now running smoothly, but history has otherwise repeated itself: *Decodex* returned to Bobigny in January for four weeks, and by the second night all of the seats had been snapped up. In between, the show has toured throughout Europe to box office and critical acclaim.

But, despite such success, the kaleidoscopic delights of *Decodex* will stop spinning immediately after its performances this week in the Woking Dance Umbrella festival. Or, as Decouflé succinctly puts it: "After that, *Decodex* goes to the garbage."

It is unlikely that the average rubbish bin will have been visited by such delightfully strange refuse. Try to imagine Jules Verne and Lewis Carroll devising a three-dimensional picture-book at the Bauhaus, then deciding to take a break under the Big Top, getting lost, and winding up inside a proscenium arch instead.

Working with the set designer Jean Rabasse (the visual wizard responsible for the peculiarly beautiful look of the films *Delicatessen* and *The City of Lost Children*), and the supremely inventive costumier Philippe Guillotel, Decouflé has compiled a stage catalogue of surreal marvels. The outcome is a visionary mélange of abstract movement, illusions, gags, acrobatics and Jack-in-the-box discoveries. At heart, though, *Decodex* is a paean to both the limitations and the potential of the human body.

Decouflé has been making work for the stage, film and video since 1983, the year he won first prize at the important Bagnolet choreographic competition. In 1989 he wet his feet in the pool of large-scale spectacle, providing some of the movement for France's bicentennial parade. His staging of the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1992 Winter Olympics, in Albertville, earned Decouflé an international reputation for imaginative flair. His (and Rabasse and Guillotel's) cornucopia of weird, wacky wonders was like a cross between Hieronymus Bosch and Busby Berkeley for the 21st century.

> ❛ When you do things very precisely, you can speak about crazy ideas ❜
>
> PHILIPPE DECOUFLE

"Before that I was not considered a choreographer by people who do dance," Decouflé says. A thin, bespectacled man with fashionably spiky black hair, he is casually clad in jeans and black sweater. Only the luxurious purple scarf swaddling his neck hints at the flamboyance to be found in his work.

"There is a movement of boring dance in France, an intellectual thing," he continues. "It's very strong. There are beautiful things sometimes, but it's boring. For these people I am like a clown. I should go to a circus, because I'm not an artist.

"Since the Olympics, it changes. People now respect me more. Critics are more prudent; they take care more often what they say. Perhaps they now understand that I could be like a bridge between the large audience and the research laboratory.

"Still, they sometimes say my creations are a bad thing — empty, commercial, like video clips for dance. But it's my generation, so why not?"

Decouflé was born in Paris in 1961, to a sociologist father and a mother who is an environmental journalist. At 15, after training in both drama and circus skills, his desire was to be a mime. He studied with Marcel Marceau, and later spent a year in New York on a scholarship with the American dance-theatre magician, Alwin Nikolais.

While there he broadened his artistic horizons via classes in modern dance — and dance video — with the likes of Merce Cunningham. His own subsequent film/video work, *running the gamut from pop promos* to arthouse dance shorts, has netted him a clutch of international awards.

"Now," he says, with a hesitant neutrality that sends boasting out of the window, "I am *perhaps* the most popular young choreographer in France."

Decouflé's source of inspiration for *Decoder* is a 1970s book, *Le Codex Seraphinianus* by the Italian artist Luigi Seraphini. Decouflé stumbled upon it in New York. "This book is completely crazy," he says. "Seraphini one day decided to begin it. He was in a little room. He closed *his door for two years. People* were bringing him food. He did that book, and it's a masterpiece.

"It's written in a language which doesn't exist, so you understand nothing. But there are a lot of drawings everywhere, there are ideas *everywhere*. For me, I discovered that when you do things very precisely, you can speak about *anything*, about completely crazy ideas."

One of the creatures that inhabit the mind of Philippe Decouflé and the stage of *Decodex*, a huge success in France

He tears off a corner of the paper tablecloth and squeezes it greedily. "You can speak about *that*, and if you do it in a beautiful way it can be spectacular. It can be *marvellous*."

Decodex starts with a warm-up duet between a Dumbo-eared, deadpan funny tall guy and a little platinum-haired flea of a gamine. All along it capitalises on Decouflé's infatuation with the tension between miniaturism and gigantism. "I try to follow a way from the very small to the very big," he says. "Going from the microbes to plants, to parts of the body, to the planets and movements of things in the sky.

"The show," he adds, almost as an afterthought, "is also a trip inside the human body." Hence Guillotel's costumes: some feature externalised rep*resentations of human bones*, muscles and organs, while others — with pleated elephant trunks or spotted, Hoover-type tentacles, fringed flippers and transparent, Saturn-style rings — suggest goofy versions of what can be studied under a microscope.

Three years ago Decouflé's Compagnie DCA was accorded a 12-year contract by the Parisian suburb of Saint-Denis. There, in a converted boiler room, he develops his work. "More and more I want to make visual things, like a phantasmagoria," he says. "I think I go away, slowly, from dance. In two years I am going *to choreograph a show for* Cirque du Soleil; it's interesting for me to work for a big circus.

"After that I would like to direct musicals on film, because right now there is nothing modern there and I think I can touch another audience. And I love cinema. It's one of my passions. Modern dance, no."

● Decodex *is at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking (01483 761144) from tomorrow to Sat*

Bebop a lulu

ONE of the defining moments of the upsurge of interest in jazz in the mid 1980s was provided by the appearance of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers at London's Shaw Theatre, jamming with a number of the country's up-and-coming musicians, Courtney Pine and Gail Thompson prominent among them.

Blakey's tenor saxophonist on that occasion, Jean Toussaint, later settled in England, and has become a stalwart of the London jazz scene. For this concert, he was joined by two other Blakey alumni, trumpeter Terence Blanchard and pianist Mulgrew Miller, in a band completed by bassist Reginald Veal and drummer Lewis Nash.

JAZZ

New York Vibes
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Toussaint has become something of a local favourite during his decade in the UK, and just how thoroughly he reciprocates this feeling was immediately demonstrated by his choice of subjects for his Arts Council-commissioned compositions.

One for Ronnie, a strident hard-bop theme in the Messengers' mould, was dedicated to the late Ronnie Scott; *Glimpse from a Double-decker* and *Piccadilly Fanfare*, both suitably bustling, impressionistic pieces, showed off Toussaint's knack of writing immediately attractive themes packed with just enough subtly displaced accents and rhythmic twists to challenge his soloists.

Blanchard, a fluent, pure-toned trumpeter, responded with typical brio, imbuing the Toussaint pieces with irresistible pep and bounce, and almost stealing the show with a superb feature, *You Don't Know What Love Is*. Miller's sly solo comments on Toussaint's tunes, and his idiosyncratically jaunty trio rendition of *If I Should Lose You*, confirmed his growing reputation as one of the most individual piano voices in the music. The rhythm section had all the snap and control customarily associated with the city of their band-title.

But it was Toussaint who starred. His is one of the most pleasing tenor tones around: warm when required, but always vigorously muscular.

CHRIS PARKER

Massive swing to old labour

PAUL RODGERS is the singer Tony Blair wanted to sound like when the Labour leader was an aspiring rock star in a university band called Ugly Rumours. Whether Blair would still feel the same if he had witnessed his hero at the Shepherds Bush Empire is doubtful. You don't need to aspire to running the country to feel deeply disconcerted by an audience of men in their forties playing air guitar.

The former Free *frontman* is about as relevant to current musical trends as a 1970s socialist manifesto is to new Labour. Rodgers's old band first entered the charts in the week Harold Wilson lost the general election to Edward Heath, and the world has changed dramatically since — except for Rodgers. As Blair contemplates taking Britain into a common currency, the singer swings a microphone stand around his head exactly as he did before we went decimal.

But Rodgers is in tune with his audience. He sings a couple of journeyman numbers from his so-so new album, and then it is down to the serious business. He knows we are disciples of the old school, there to hear those venerable Free classics. Wild cheers greet *The Stealer, Fire and Water* and *Mr Big* — and they still sound pretty fine after all these years.

POP

Paul Rodgers
Empire, W12

Of course, it is not quite the same as when you were 16 years old. Lead guitarist Geoff Whitehorn is not Paul Kossoff, and sensibly does not try to emulate him. His tone is fatter and less supple and he does his own thing solidly, without ever inspiring. The rhythm section of Jaz Lochrie and Jim Copley drives the juggernaut with conviction, and if Rodgers's voice has lost a little of that tough gristle there is still a flintiness that Blair's Oxford tones could never emulate.

The singer sounded nowhere better than on *Wishing Well*, Blair's own particular desert island favourite. But if things go well on the night of May 1, the Labour leader could be forgiven if *it is All Right Now*. Rodgers's inevitable encore, that he mimes in front of the bedroom mirror before finally turning in.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Sadly giving back the keys

BREAKING up is indeed hard to do, as A House found out last Friday night when they played an emotionally charged farewell gig in their home town.

A House
Dublin

The band has always enjoyed a passionate following, and the mood of celebration at the Olympia was tempered by a sense of sadness that grew more pronounced as the show wore on, leaving grown men and women in tears by the time the final curtain came down. For these faithful fans, the show probably spelt the *end of an* integral part of their adolescence as much as it signalled the dissolution of a pop group.

The evening had started in a low-key manner, with a short acoustic set by Harvest Ministers. Local indie darlings Revelino, who count John Peel among their fans, were also on the bill. Their sturdy, if unspectacular, brand of classic guitar-pop revealed a group au fait with the dynamics of *melody*, vocal harmony and traditional song structure, especially *Radio Speaks* and *Happiness is Mine*, which have the Byrds and the Pixies, respectively, as their tutors. To judge by the critical plaudits bestowed upon their second album, *Broadcaster*, Revelino could yet graduate with chart honours.

Mainstream commercial success eluded A House to an almost Pimpernellian degree. Their career spanned 12 years, five albums and three record *companies, but to little chart* success. Between the opening salvo, *Kick Me Again, Jesus* (their first and arguably finest single) and the closing stubborn declaration, *I Can't Change* (from last year's swansong *No More Apologies*), cells from every organ of A House's imperfect body of work were re-animated.

The haunting cadence of the bruised *cri de coeur*, *When I Last Saw You*, would put a lump in the most hardened of throats, but Dave Couse's unashamedly confessional mode of songwriting often crossed the line between profundity and triteness, as on *Cry Easily*, for example.

Couse himself has never harboured doubts about his ability to transform feelings of vulnerability and emotional insecurity into poignant artistic expression. He remains, however, a decidedly affable character by virtue of his acerbic, ironic Dublin wit. Rest assured he will be back in some shape or form to wipe those tears away.

NICK KELLY

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

TOM SAPSFORD

Age: 21

Profession: Dancer and choreographer.

Standard beginnings: *Trained at the Royal Ballet* School from the age of 11: joined the Royal Ballet at 18.

Professional debut a washout? He choreographed a piece for Dances for Elephants, a 1994 tour by Royal Ballet dancers to Kenya in aid of wildlife. "I had my dancers wearing 1920s flappers' dresses and moving to music by the Inkspots. But there was a rainstorm which submerged the stage in about two inches of water."

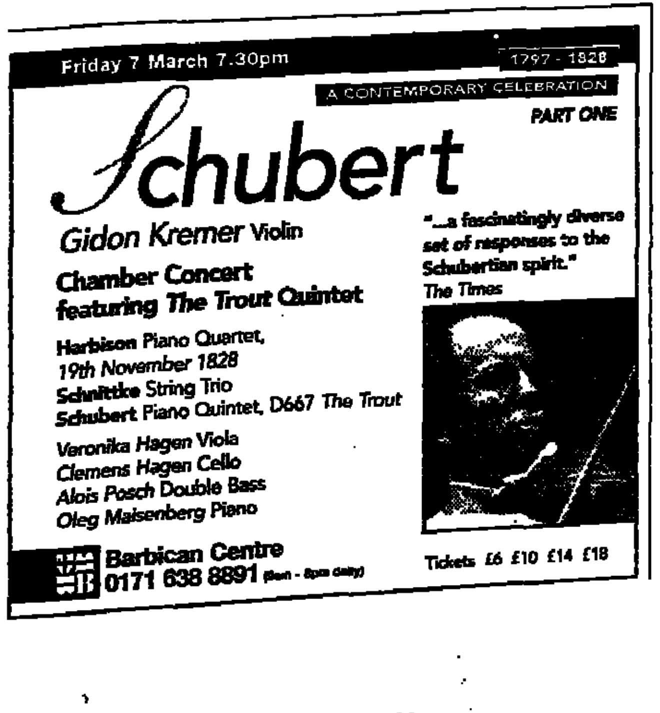
Second time lucky: His *Odalisque* solo for the Royal Ballet's 1996 Dance Bites tour was respectable enough to earn him a second commission this year (catch it at the Swan in High Wycombe this week; at the Theatre Royal in Bath Monday and Tuesday). "It's set in a rave club backroom, but it's about nightclubbing in general. The music is electric guitar and computer-generated tape, kind of grunge. The characters are from the different sorts of club scenes. It's the kind of piece that could never be done at Covent Garden."

Happy in his job? You bet. "A company that gives a 21-year-old 20 minutes of prime space is quite rare. Dance Bites is a chance to try things out. One of the good things about the mini tour is that you get to deal with a different kind of space, one closer to the audience. You get more involved."

Personal agenda: "I am trying to do something that is relevant to people my age, people who wouldn't go to see ballet but would see modern dance. There's a different pace in a lot of the culture today, very rapid. I want to get the feeling of the five-second attention span. I am trying to make a ballet work like that: short and rapidly changing."

What about his own attention span? "I take great joy in sitting down and channel flicking on the television. There is such a strange, odd combination of things that if you keep going all night you will see the most bizarre things. There is an art to channel surfing. You can make up a whole programme just by channel surfing. I can play Beavis and Butthead all by myself."

DEBRA CRAINE



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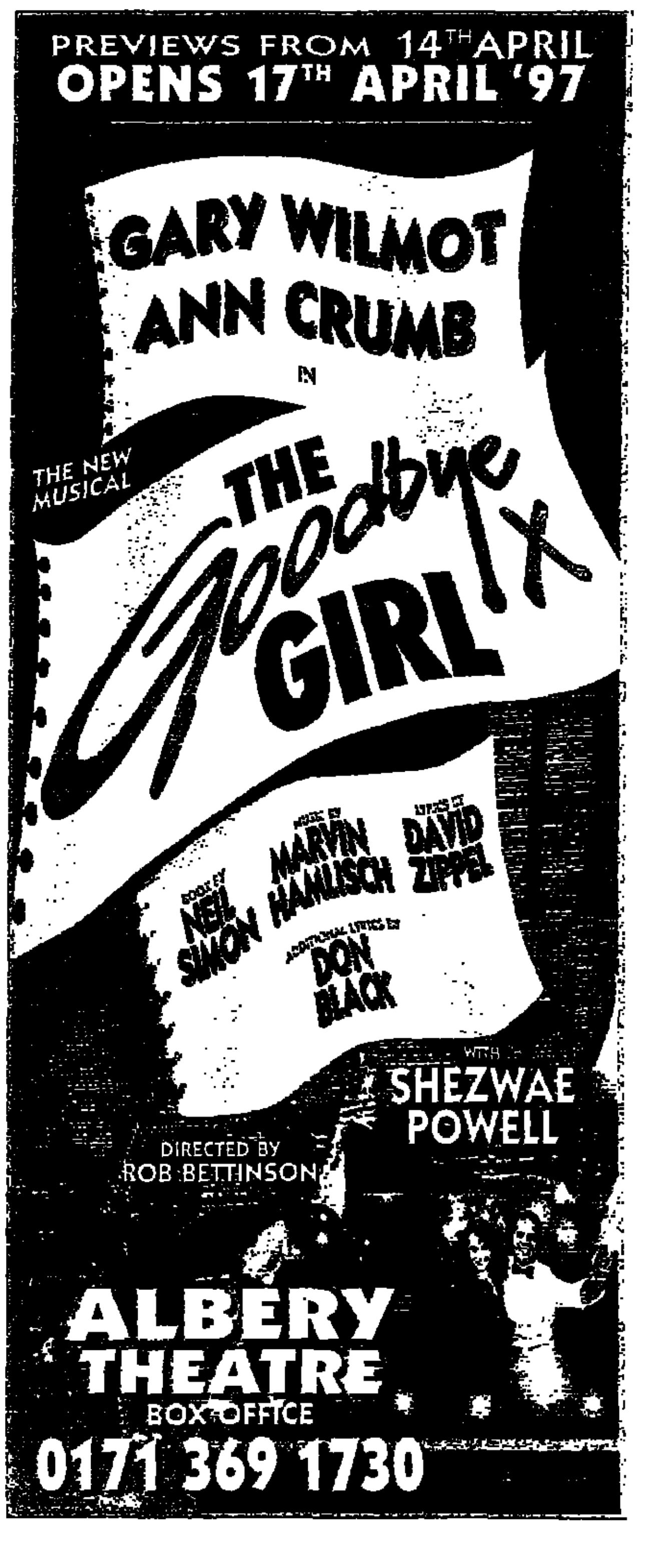

PREVIEWS FROM 14TH APRIL
OPENS 17TH APRIL '97
GARY WILMOT
ANN CRUMB
IN
THE NEW MUSICAL
THE Goodbye GIRL
BOOK BY NEIL SIMON
MUSIC BY MARVIN HAMLISCH
LYRICS BY DAVID ZIPPEL
ADDITIONAL LYRICS BY DON BLACK
WITH SHEZWAE POWELL
DIRECTED BY ROB BETTINSON
ALBERY THEATRE
BOX OFFICE
0171 369 1730

■ CHOICE 1

Jean Rigby sings in the Nash Ensemble's concert of new music

VENUE: Tonight at the Purcell Room

■ CHOICE 2

. . . while, in Birmingham, Sir Simon Rattle harks back to the Sixties

VENUE: Tonight at Symphony Hall

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

The rare Tennessee Williams drama, *Out Cry*, goes on the road

VENUE: This week at the Everyman, Cheltenham

■ OPERA

At the Coliseum, Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* benefits little from Martha Clarke's treatment

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

BIRDY *Northern Exposure* actor Rob Morrow joins Kevin Knight's cast in Naomi Wallace's fascinating version of the William Wharton novel: a psychologically damaged GI (Matthew Wait) believes he is a bird. Or does he? **Comedy**, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Opens tonight, 7pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm

TOSCA: Robert Down conducts the **Royal Opera** in a revival of Puccini's impassioned story of the fiery tempered operatic diva. The Russian soprano Maria Guleghina returns to Covent Garden to sing her first Tosca with the company, with Keith Olsen as Cavaradossi. Sergei Leiferkus and Simon Estes share the role of Scarpia. **Royal Opera House**, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then March 7, 11, 13, 17 and 20 🅂

TWENTIETH CENTURY MUSIC SERIES This evening's recital begins with Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro*. The mezzo-soprano Jean Rigby joins the **Nash Ensemble** for Nicholas Maw's *Roman canticle* for mezzo-soprano, flute, viola and harp, based on a poem by Robert Browning, and Simon Holt's *Canciones* for mezzo-soprano and ensemble. The programme includes two world premieres: Julian Anderson's new work for flute, clarinet, harp and string quartet and Sally Beamish's *Between Earth and Sea* for flute, viola and harp. With Skaila Kanga, harp. The conductor is Martyn Brabbins. **Purcell Room**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM Sir Simon Rattle conducts the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** in Berio's *Sinfonia*, Lutoslawski's Cello Concerto and Messiaen's *Et Exspecto Resurrectionem Mortuorum*. With Lynn Harrell, cello, and Electric Phoenix. Part of the *Towards the Millennium* festival. **Symphony Hall**, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm 🅂

CHELTENHAM The adventurous Cheek by Jowl theatre company presents the British premiere of Tennessee Williams's compelling psychological drama, **Out Cry**. Directed by Timothy Walker. **Everyman**, Regent Street (01242 572573). Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then tomorrow and Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 4pm and 8pm. Until March 8

DUNDEE: The conductor Tadaaki Otaka makes his **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** debut in this evening's concert at the Caird Hall. The programme begins with Takemitsu's *How Slow the Wind* and includes Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor and Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. Repeat performances tomorrow in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, and in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, on Friday. **Caird Hall**, City Square (01382 434940). Tonight, 7.30pm

NEWCASTLE: Mark Murphy's **V-Tol Dance Company** performs *By Force of Fantasy*. **Playhouse**, Haymarket (0191-230 5151). Today-Fri, 8pm. 🅂

LONDON GALLERIES

Annely Juda: Nathan Cohen (0171-629 7578) . . **Barbican:** Revelation — Textile Artists Addressing Issues (0171-638 4141) . . **British Museum:** Heirs of Rome: the Shaping of Britain AD400-900 (0171-636 1555) . . . **Christopher Hull:** Zoe Benbow: Recent Paintings (0171-235 0500) . . **Harriet Green:** "Fired" - Contemporary Print in Ceramics (0171-287 8328) . . **Llewellyn Alexander:** William Ireland and Oliver Canti (0171-620 1322) . . . **National Portrait:** August Sander (0171-306 0055) . . **Royal Over-Seas League:** Stuart Robertson (0171-408 0214)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
▨ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **AMERICAN BUFFALO:** Douglas Henshall, Neil Stuke and Nicholas Woodeson play the small-time crooks in David Mamet's gripping drama. Great dialogue. Lindsay Posner directs. **Young Vic**, 66 The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed (March 12, 19) and Sat (March 15, 22, 29, April 5), 2.30pm. Until April 5

■ **ART.** Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott in an exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white canvas. Matthew Warchus directs. Last week for present cast. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm

■ **CARDIFF EAST** Kenneth Cranham, Karl Johnson, Windsor Davies in the cast of 15 for Peter Gill's new play set on a Welsh housing estate. **National (Cottesloe)**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.30pm. In rep

■ **IVANOV** Ralph Fiennes heads a splendid cast that includes Harriet Walter and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chekhov's first produced play. **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 3pm

☐ **ST NICHOLAS** Brian Cox plays a smug theatre critic who falls for a young actress, which probably doesn't prove a good move. One-man play written and directed by Conor McPherson, author of last year's well-received three-monologue play, *This Lime Tree Bower*. **Bush**, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm

▨ ***SCHOOL FOR WIVES*** Peter Bowles both touching and comic as Molière's deluded hero. Eric Sykes excellent as his flicker-fingered servant. **Piccadilly**, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm

▨ **A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE** Jessica Lange and Toby Stephens in an adroit production by Peter Hall. **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm

■ **THREE HOURS AFTER MARRIAGE** Eighteenth-century comedy by Gay, Pope and Arbuthnot. laboured comic effects do not increase the jollity but there are funny moments. **Pit, Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm; mat Thurs, 2pm. In rep

☐ **WASTE.** Peter Hall's bold new seven-nights-a-week repertory starts with Galsworthy's 1907 drama. Originally banned by the Lord Chamberlain for dwelling on what happens when a politician spends a night with a married woman. With Felicity Kendal and Michael Pennington. **Old Vic**, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens March 14, 7.30pm. Then nightly, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. *Cloud Nine* joins the repertoire on March 10.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-369 1733) . . . ☐ **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged):** Criterion (0171-369 1737) . . ▨ **An Inspector Calls**, Garrick (0171-494 5085) . . ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar:** Lyceum (0171-656 1807) . . ▨ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) ▨ **Miss Saigon:** Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (0171-836 494 5020) . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**, Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BOUND** (18): Thriller about two sultry lesbians and a pile of Mob money, with Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon. Directed by the Wachowski brothers. **ABC Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Mezzanine** (0181-315 4215) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ **THE CRUCIBLE** (12): Weighty version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder, Daniel Day-Lewis and, best of all, Paul Scofield. Director, Nicholas Hytner. **Barbican** 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Leicester Square** (0181-315 4215) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **MARS ATTACKS!** (12): Tim Burton's silly and star-studded spoof of the alien invasion movie, with Jack Nicholson and Glenn Close. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Notting Hill Coronet** 🅂 (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY** (12): Jane Campion's icily elegant adaptation of Henry James, with Nicole Kidman as the independent American sucked into a marriage in Europe. **Barbican** 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** 🅂 (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** 🅂 (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

CURRENT

◆ **FIERCE CREATURES** (PG): Broad comedy in an English zoo, from John Cleese and *A Fish Called Wanda* team. **ABC Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Empire** (0990-888 990) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031)

◆ **HARRIET THE SPY** (PG): Precocious girl spies on friends and elders. Unattractive American family film, with Rosie O'Donnell. **Empire** 🅂 (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990)

◆ **MICHAEL** (PG): Ragged, indulgent romantic fable saved by John Travolta's starring role as an angel. **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

◆ **THE PHANTOM** (12): Lightly likeable comic-strip thrills, with Billy Zane as the masked righter of wrongs. **Plaza** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031)

◆ **SHE'S THE ONE** (15): Amiable family comedy from Edward Burns, director of *The Brothers McMullen*. With Cameron Diaz and John Mahoney. **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Plaza** 🅂 (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)

OPERA: Martha Clarke's Gluck for ENO; Bizet in Paris; Dvořák at the Guildhall

Chorus in the dark

Orpheus and Eurydice
Coliseum

Just when everyone is beginning to agree that the Coliseum *is* too large for much of the operatic repertory and a difficult acoustic for words, along comes an intimate chamber opera that fills the theatre: *Orpheus and Eurydice*, sung with uncommon clarity in a smart translation by Anne Ridler. Gluck's masterpiece, long absent from London's stages, is one of the simplest of all operas, and whatever else the producer Martha Clarke does with it, she finds a way of projecting its honest, beautiful simplicity in this big space.

Unfortunately, Clarke does "do" things with it. The distinguished American choreographer, making her ENO debut in a production due to be shared with New York City Opera, might have been an inspired choice for this work, built around dance as it is. There are certainly moments where music and movement are at one, such as the harrowing physical violence at the entrance to Hades, and the naked, Matisse-evoking dancers in the Elysian Fields. But in discarding Gluckian formality, she substitutes unbuttoned, "self-expressive" movement redundant to such emotionally precise music, especially in the (noisy) frolicking about of the final scene.

More damagingly, Clarke seems to have a block when it comes to a peculiarly operatic "problem" — the chorus. In this opera the choristers need to be on stage, supplying Greek Chorus-style commentary and in the Underworld assuming characters all their own. Clarke banishes the chorus to boxes overlooking the pit, and it is blessed relief when they are allowed on stage for the final hug-in.

John Conklin's permanent stage is strewn with jagged rocks. This is a barren, largely abstract world, relieved not by any set but only a few black-and-white cloths. Jane Greenwood's mostly black costumes are mostly coats, and Paul Pyant's effective lighting completes this bleak picture. But only half of this perfectly balanced opera is sombre, and the production fails to summon up fully its brighter side.

There is nothing monochromatic about Jane Glover's poised conducting, which makes the music sound achingly poignant. A few of Gluck's stylistic trademarks, like his affecting use of major keys to denote terrible grief, never fail to work, but only a special kind of conductor like Glover can be alert to all the contrasts. Every tempo is carefully judged in this performance, which unfolds with dramatic momentum. The original, 1762 version is played without interval.

Michael Chance, a seasoned Orpheus, makes a strong case for counter-tenors in the title role, though there are few around to match him for flowing musicality. Though there is room for more warmth in his singing, he portrays a very human hero, true to Gluck's reforming ideals. Lesley Garrett, always at her best in serious parts, sings passionately in her first Eurydice. Helen Williams is a bright but slightly too-knowing Amor, her principal role debut with the company.

JOHN ALLISON

DONALD COOPER

Lesley Garrett as Eurydice and Michael Chance as Orpheus

Big on bad ideas

Carmen
Opéra Bastille, Paris

IT WAS to be hoped that a new production in Paris would form some sort of climax to the month of the three *Carmens*, but it was not to be. The results are gold medal to Welsh National for its fresh and original reading, silver to Raymond Gubbay for a worthy effort, and lead to Paris for one of the most depressing stagings of any opera I have seen for years.

First the externals. There were surtitles in French, and whatever the shortcomings of the Opéra Bastille the acoustics are word-friendly. Not that this amenity turned out to be helpful: a technical fault blotted out the last word of every line throughout the evening.

Then, in Paris of all places, the long-discredited Oeser edition was used, with its wilful mis-readings of Bizet's discarded sketches and inclusion of music that the composer himself cut in rehearsals because it wasn't needed. To hear this travesty in what is supposed to be a temple of French lyric art was enraging.

Not that there was much happening on stage, anyway. Indeed, it would be hard to demonstrate more clearly the difference between what is accepted as production in France and anywhere else in the world. Out go direction of singers, meaningful stage action, establishment of motivation and character, in come mere decoration and fistfuls of "ideas". The decoration included a troupe of six dancer-extras, three of whom were dwarfs. The "ideas" included solving the tricky problem of Carmen's escape in the first act by having it happen off-stage.

The singers were simply left to their own devices. In the case of Neil Shicoff's Don José this proved an unwise decision. He was disposed to hang on to any high note that suited him, regardless of verbal or musical sense, and set his own tempos. The conductor just had to sit and wait.

At least he registered. Elena Zaremba's firmly sung protagonist seldom projected over the up-staging dancers, and in the circumstances Angela Gheorghiu may be forgiven for treating Micaëla's big number as a concert aria. The American Escamillo was embarrassingly undercast.

The hapless conductor, Gary Bertini, may likewise be forgiven for having given up, but his wooden phrasing and strict-tempo approach to the music were as depressing as everything else.

RODNEY MILNES

Deep in the country

DVORAK'S opera *The Cunning Peasant*, written in 1877, was second in popularity only to Smetana's *Bartered Bride* in the years following its premiere. Since then it has fared less well, and the production by the ever-resourceful Guildhall School of Music and Drama is a rare opportunity to hear a work bursting at the seams with geniality and thumping good tunes.

Cunning Peasant
Guildhall School

At first it seemed as if that relentless geniality was going to be difficult to take. The scenario brings together scheming landowners, plotting peasants and earnest young lovers. But in the second act, director Robert Chevara (with designer Es Devlin) highlights something deeper in the drama.

Towards the end of the ballet sequence conventional peasant whirling suddenly gives way to a *Carmen*-like confrontation fraught with sexual tension. Shortly afterwards the nine principals line up across the stage for an ensemble that thrillingly hints at something turbulent beneath the surface.

Even the traditional love duet after that seems to enter another realm; Christoph Wittmann and Liubov Chuchrova held us entranced. Clive Timms was the able conductor. More performances, highly recommended, tonight and Friday.

BARRY MILLINGTON

ART GALLERIES

PARKIN GALLERY 12 Feb-14 Mar 1910 Portrait of a Year, 11 Motcomb St SW1 0171 235 8144

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Office & Standby info. Tickets available on the day. The Royal Opera Ton't, Fri, Tue 7.30 TOSCA Tomor, Sat, Mon 7.00 COSI FAN TUTTE

THEATRES

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OPERA & BALLET

Mozart Così fan tutte 6 8 10 12 14 19 March at 7pm The ROYAL OPERA Box Office 0171-304 4000

THEATRES

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ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003. cc bkg fee 344 4444 Grps 0800 614 903 DIANA RIGG DAVID SUCHET in EDWARD ALBEE'S WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF Dir by Howard Davies "A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Std Mon-Sat 7.15pm Sat Mat 2.15pm LAST 3 WEEKS

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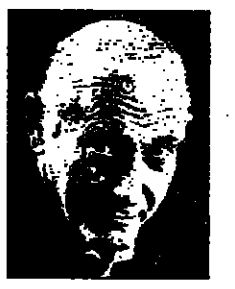
■ THEATRE 1

Meeting of minds: Tony Kushner and Ariel Dorfman collaborate on the writing of a new play

■ THEATRE 2

The mind-set of the middle-aged lady is explored in an Irish play, *Women on the Verge of HRT*

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ MUSIC

Georg Solti conducts in Manchester, and gives his approval to Bridgewater Hall

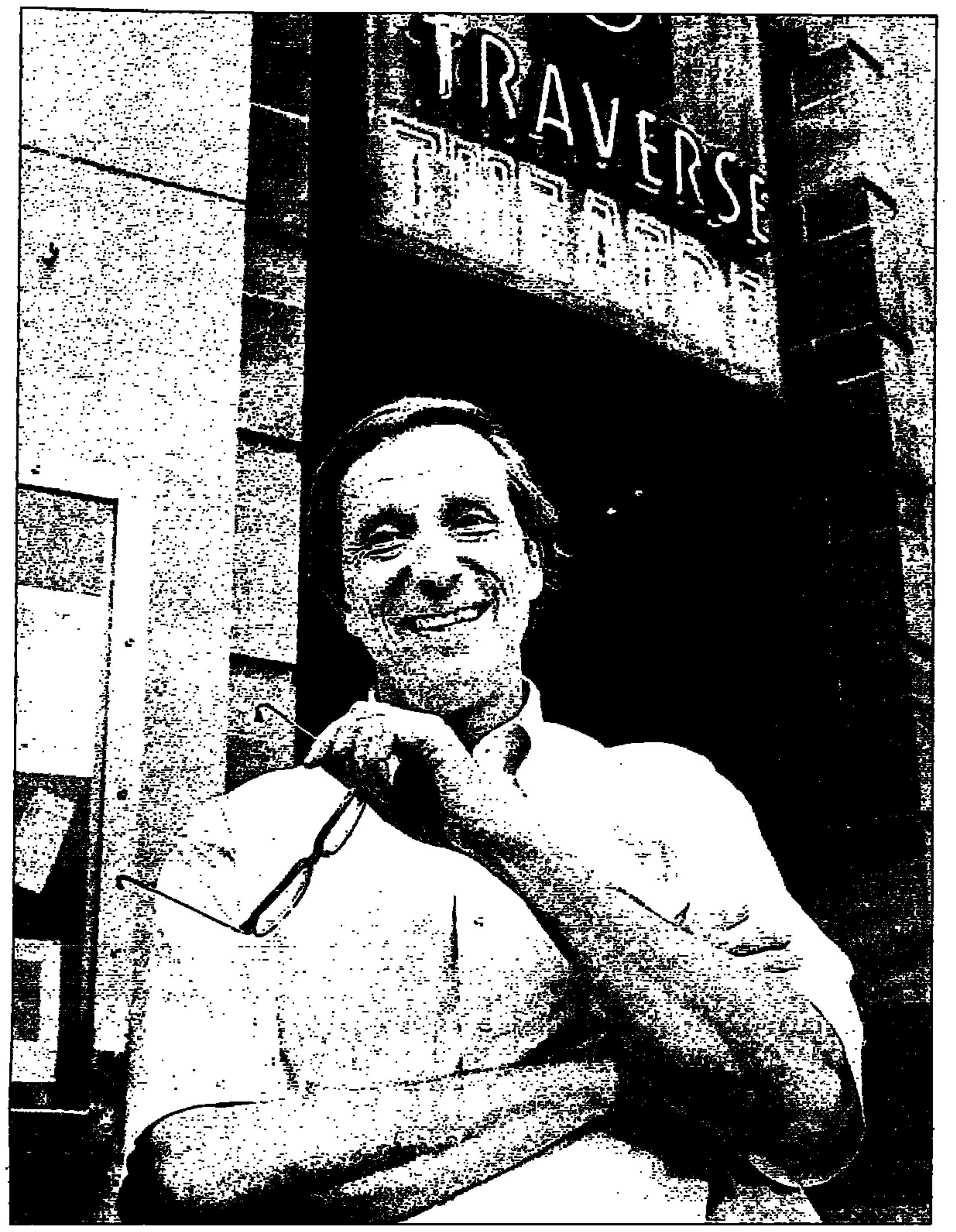
■ OFFER

Special prices for a remarkable staging of *Faust*: see the Theatre Club panel for details

THEATRE: The families of Chile's 'disappeared' find a dramatic voice in Cambridge; plus reviews

Back from the vanishing point

Ariel Dorfman tells **Daniel Rosenthal** about the long genesis of his play *Widows*



Ariel Dorfman's *Widows*, in collaboration with Tony Kushner, receives its European premiere tonight

Ariel Dorfman took just three weeks to write *Death and the Maiden*. So it seems hard to believe that he should have required seven years and assistance from another dramatist to refine an earlier play, which also focuses unerringly on the victims and villains of Latin American dictatorship.

Yet in 1988, the Argentine-born author was deeply dissatisfied with the initial stage version of his novel, *Widows* — so much so that he agreed to rewrite it with a man he had never heard of, Tony Kushner, the New Yorker on the brink of international success with his Aids epic, *Angels in America*.

The compelling product of their collaboration was first performed in Los Angeles six years ago, and finally receives its European premiere in Cambridge tonight, in a Traverse Theatre production directed by Ian Brown.

Like *Death and the Maiden*, *Widows* is set in an unnamed Latin American country at a time of uneasy transition from totalitarianism to democracy. Where the former derived its power from the experiences of political prisoners and their torturers, *Widows* gives voice to the mothers, wives and daughters of "the disappeared", the thousands snatched from their homes by the secret police in Chile, Argentina and beyond.

In Camacho, a town where every man has disappeared, two battered, unrecognisable male corpses materialise in the river. Sofia Fuentes, an elderly peasant, claims them as her missing husband and father, bringing herself and, eventually, all of the waiting women into conflict with a conscience-stricken but implacable army captain.

Dorfman has been "obsessed" by the disappeared since 1973, when General Pinochet's coup in Chile forced him and his young family into exile. "Democracy has returned to Chile, but I still have friends who are missing," he says. "The women in *Widows* experience the worst horror imaginable: not knowing if your loved one is alive or dead."

The defiant old woman and the quasi-mythical river which gives back its dead first appeared in Dorfman's 1976 poem, *Identity*. Two years later, writing in Spanish, he began to expand the story into a novel. He transplanted the action to 1940s Greece to give it a *Crucible*-like distance from more contemporary horrors, and thereby give the book a better (though unrealised) hope of appearing under a pseudonym in Chile, where his work was banned.

In 1986, he returned the action to Latin America for a stage adaptation, which was premiered in Fort Worth, Texas, two years later, winning a best new play award. But even after numerous rewrites, Dorfman felt something was fundamentally wrong with his play. *Death and the Maiden* would prove much easier to write because he was "not adapting something which already worked in another form": with *Widows*, he remained "too enmeshed" in his Spanish prose narrative to produce effective drama in English. Hence, at the suggestion of director Bob Egan, the introduction to Kushner.

At first glance, they seem an unlikely pairing. "Tony is wholly North American and rooted in the theatre; I'm a bilingual Latin American who's spent most of his life on prose and poetry," says Dorfman.

"Ariel writes very fast, like a dynamo; I work slowly and am hugely undisciplined," says Kushner.

Politically, however, they had similar preoccupations. Kushner admired Dorfman's anti-Pinochet activism and had joined Amnesty International demonstrations in New York, marching to the Chilean Embassy with the photograph of a disappeared girl around his neck. Dorfman recalls how they also "shared common ground aesthetically, both believing that political theatre must not simply inform and denounce, it must engage the audience's imagination".

Kushner found *Widows*, the novel, "immensely dramatic, with a simplicity of narrative that resembles Greek tragedy" (it contains deliberate echoes of *The Trojan Women* and *Antigone*). "I wrote a stage version which was more argumentative than Ariel's. He thought it interesting but wanted a more collaborative process.

"We spent seven days at his home in Durham, North Carolina, working more intensively than I've ever worked before or since. I typed and Ariel paced. We'd write a few lines, read them aloud, then write some more. We changed the opening and the whole rhythm. Whenever we got stuck, we devised solutions that differed from what either of us had originally advocated." Dorfman says Kushner freed him from his personal involvement in the story: "Tony was enormously helpful. He was the play's midwife."

Widows, "by Ariel Dorfman with Tony Kushner", opened in LA in 1991, but its evolution was still incomplete. The remarkable simultaneous triumphs of *Death and the Maiden* and *Angels in America* meant both authors were too busy to give *Widows* the additional rewrite Dorfman wanted. Kushner eventually said: "Ariel, it's your play, you should do what you want with it."

Dorfman was finally spurred into action in 1993 by a phone call from Brown, expressing his desire to stage *Widows* in Edinburgh. He made some of the dialogue "more magical" and introduced a partially autobiographical narrator, a Latin American exile who "witnesses the action from afar". At last, he had reached what might be termed a *Widows* peak.

Kushner looks back on the collaboration as "a great experience", but it remains the only writing partnership of his career. Dorfman, describing himself as "extremely flexible", continually juggles projects, several of which have involved his two sons. With Rodrigo, 30, he recently finished a play satirising Hollywood. With Joaquin, 18, he has completed a film script called *Playing it Cool*. "I helped Joaquin to develop the central character," he explains. "Let's say I was his Tony Kushner."

● Widows, *supported by Barclays Stage Partners, is at Cambridge Arts (01223 503333), tonight until Saturday; Oxford Playhouse (01865 798600), March 11-15; Newcastle Playhouse (0191-230 5151), March 18-22; Traverse, Edinburgh (0131-228 1404), March 25-April 6*

CONCERTS

Only project

BBCPO/Solti
Manchester

"YOU are very lucky," Sir Georg Solti announced at the end of his concert with the BBC Philharmonic, "you have a beautiful hall." Well, yes it is from some acoustic angles and some points of view. But, as he himself seemed to realise on his first experience of the Bridgewater Hall with an audience in it, however good the sound on the platform, an orchestra must still make a conscious effort to project into the auditorium.

The Prelude to Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina* (in the Rimsky-Korsakov version), though not entirely lacking in early-morning atmosphere, was too even both texturally and structurally. That was at the beginning of the concert. There was no such problem after the interval in Shostakovich's Fifteenth Symphony, which was presented not only with the rhythmic intensity so characteristic of this conductor but also with each event weighed exactly according to its importance. The details were so clear and the climaxes so firmly placed that, whatever the meaning of this enigmatic work, everyone had the opportunity to come to a well informed conclusion about it.

Solti's own opinion is clearly that, however playful the first movement might be, Shostakovich's last symphony is neither an intellectual tease nor, like the Ninth, a cheerful evasion of serious issues. For him the heart of the work is its funereal Adagio, where the expressively liberated and eloquently played cello solos said it all. The rest of the work fell into place round that formative experience. The ending, though consolatory, was also eerily and uneasily unreal.

The item at the centre of this elegantly planned programme of Mussorgsky and Shostakovich was the latter's orchestral version of the former's *Songs and Dances of Death*. Although the arrangement might be disproportionate to the scale of the songs, it is certainly true to their sound. With a singer as well equipped as Sergei Alexashkin to take advantage of the situation, it also adds a powerfully dramatic dimension to the comparatively modest ambition of the original.

GERALD LARNER

Edge of the abyss

Philharmonia/ Dohnányi
Festival Hall

CHRISTOPH von Dohnányi's pair of concerts with the Philharmonia this week offer both celebration and challenging reassessment of Schubert in his bicentenary year. While tonight's will test the notions of "finished" and "unfinished" symphonies, Sunday's threw new light on the most emphatically completed of them all: the "Great C major".

Only within the last decade have conductors and orchestras really dared not to take the figure nine and the tag "Great" at stolid and over-reverent face value. Schubert knew well that divine play was also a part of honour, and the Philharmonia and Dohnányi duly made the finale a brightly coloured mosaic of Beethovenian allusion.

Right at the start, Dohnányi showed himself alert to the latest musicological wisdom by finding just two light beats for the springing horn and lithe woodwind chords of the opening Andante — and maintaining the same pulse through into the Allegro.

Oboe and clarinet were dreaming wanderers over the determined footfall of the second movement and, although Dohnányi's tendency to clip a rhythmic wing or two showed itself at times, the amassing of the fearsome diminished chords which leads to the movement's denouement was concentrated enough to bring the music to the very edge of the abyss.

The focus on the woodwind as an occasional and independent band of serenaders had been cleverly anticipated in the choice of Mozart's C minor Piano Concerto K491 before the interval. Murray Perahia is clearly falling in love with this repertoire all over again. This was a performance of exceptional beauty, subdued yet incisive, and quietly confident enough to free the slow movement to sing out in utter simplicity, and to take a bold, decisive lead in the finale's complex variations.

HILARY FINCH

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Crushes at the end of passion

What goes through the heads of the middle-aged women who rush up to the footlights at the end of *Heathcliff* in order to be very, very close to Cliff Richard? Well, Marie Jones's **Women on the Verge of HRT** (at the Vaudeville) provides plausible answers.

Women reaching their half-century sometimes find fantasy substitutes for men who are boorish, neglectful or just plain missing. For them, the Cliffs and Daniel O'Donnells are a blend of Prozac and powdered rhino horn: aphrodisiacs that simultaneously lull and thrill.

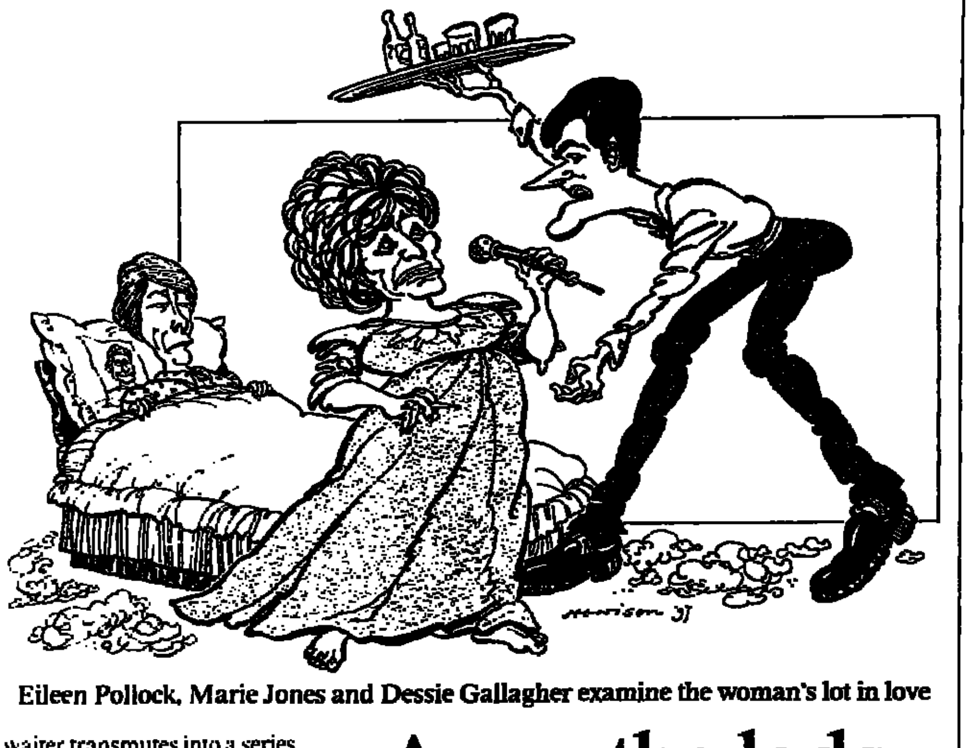
Jones's sometimes attractive, sometimes samey, play opens with filmed interviews of middle-aged women at an O'Donnell concert. They like him a lot. Then up go the stage-lights and, lo, a hotel room occupied by two friends who like him still more. One, Anna, has brought a pillow case with his photograph on it. The other, Vera, broods about the husband who abandoned her for a much younger woman, and feels she is fit only for a "sex scrapheap", followed by a "sex hospice".

Some of Vera's lines are good, and Jones, who herself plays the part, puts them over with a sulky swagger. But they have become repetitive well before Eileen Pollock's quieter, sadder Anna accuses her of being boring. Since the first act consists of her complaints, Anna's revelation that her own husband has not had sex with her for years, and the appearance of Dessie Gallagher as a young waiter who does conjuring tricks and sings romantic ballads, the interval does not come too soon.

The second act, which whisks the women to a beach at dawn, is rather more eventful and substantial. While a banshee wails offstage, the waiter transmutes into a series of characters from the women's native Belfast: rejecting husband, philandering husband; young wife who has chosen an older spouse in the belief he will not abandon her, older wife who is prepared to trade love for the show of marital respectability.

What does this mix of realism and jiggery-pokery achieve? Well, it allows Jones to present a cross-section of disillusion and cynicism. What are women who dislike their men but fear loneliness to do? What kind of sex life can the older woman expect? Why should men find it easier to find new partners than they do? Good questions, I guess; but it is a pity that Darby and Joan figure nowhere in Jones's personal mythology.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Eileen Pollock, Marie Jones and Dessie Gallagher examine the woman's lot in love

Away the lads

FOOTBALL has dribbled into the zeitgeist of the chattering classes, so it's hardly surprising that it has become something of a theatrical fetish.

In **Golden Own Goal**, Paul Pavitt's farce at the Old Red Lion, the old battle lines between the sexes are invoked when Dave and Stu persuade their respective partners, Nicky and Toni, that they should part during the 1996 European championship — the lads to watch the entire tournament on TV at Stu's place, the women to unpick their marriages at Dave's.

Goals, mostly own goals, are scored by both teams as their relationships fall apart in the heat of the moment. Alistair Galbraith's Dave is a gambling building contractor; J. Simpson's Stu is a dim, Chelsea-mad brickie. They are unreconstructed slobs; selfish, racist and criminally ignorant about their wives. The women are handled with slightly more grace. "What's smart casual?" asks Debby Bishop's Toni. "Where I come from it means you shave your legs," says Liz Edmond's Nicky.

But while Pravitt's observations on these working-class relationships may be crushing, his insights on selfishness and honesty are strictly limited; the effect is like pounding a blancmange with a sledgehammer. Nevertheless, the whole thing is stuck together with great good humour by Ken McClymont.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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Outgoing with exceptional interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate well at all levels, you must also be a good organiser with the ability to prioritise and manage your time effectively and efficiently.

In return we offer a generous salary and benefits package, including contributory pension, private medical care scheme and life insurance cover.

If your background matches the above criteria, please apply in writing, quoting current salary and reference PA/GC, to: Ms G. Carmichael, Siemens Microelectronics Limited, Siemens Way, Silverlink, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE28 9NZ. Or fax your c.v. on: 0191-280 5400.

To find out more please look us up at: **http://www.topjobs.co.uk/corp/siemens/siemens.htm**

THE NEXT INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Office Manager/PA to the Chief Executive

£24,230 p.a. plus benefits - 1 year fixed term contract in the first instance

We seek an experienced Office Manager/Senior PA to play a key role in the re-organisation of the Chief Executive's Secretariat, a small but busy office handling complex functions. The emphasis of the job is on creating new office systems, both paperbased and computerised, to support the work of the Chief Executive and to increase the effectiveness with which the Fund's corporate business is managed. The postholder will also act as PA to the Chief Executive and, as such, is a key point of contact for people both inside and outside the Fund.

The person appointed will have substantial previous senior experience, excellent organisational ability and first class secretarial skills, including Word for Windows, e-mail and electronic diary packages. The post also requires excellent verbal and written communication skills and the ability to exercise a high degree of initiative and judgement.

For further information and an application form please telephone our 24-hour ansaphone on 0171 307 2501 or write to the Personnel Department, 11-13 Cavendish Square, London W1M OAN, or email hadk@kehf.org.uk Please do not send CVs.

Closing date: 24 March 1997.

Interviews: 7 April 1997.

The King's Fund is committed to equal opportunities in its employment and all of its activities.

King's Fund

The King's Fund promotes good practice and quality improvement in health and social care, through grant making, information provision, service and management development, policy analysis and audit.

Schroders

Institutional Marketing Department

Schroder Investment Management Limited is one of the U.K's most successful fund management groups with total funds under management exceeding £80 billion.

The Marketing department is responsible for the development of institutional business, providing proposals and marketing material to both potential clients and investment consultants, located in the U.K and continental Europe.

Due to the continuing development of the department there is now a requirement for two enthusiastic, energetic and flexible individuals with strong secretarial backgrounds.

Personal Assistant

- Reporting to Head of U.K Marketing
- Proactive management of working schedules
- Communicating with potential clients, fund managers and external agencies
- Organising marketing seminars and functions
- Supervision of a part time secretary

Team Secretary

- Reporting to a Marketing team of five
- Proactive management of department deadlines
- Support in the preparation of new business proposals
- Communicating with investment consultants and overseas offices
- Maintenance of group marketing database

Both positions require attention to detail and the ability to cope under pressure while working to changing deadlines. Strong communication skills coupled with a confident and professional manner will enable you to make an immediate contribution within the department.

The successful applicants will be of graduate calibre with a minimum of 60wpm typing speed. Proficiency in Word, Excel and Powerpoint are required. Audio experience is necessary for the role of personal assistant.

The compensation packages include competitive salaries plus full banking benefits.

Applications should be made in writing with full curriculum vitae stating role applied for and current salary details to Linzi Mitchell, Hays Banking Secretarial, 41-42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB. Tel: 0171 256 5798. Fax: 0171 256 5804. All direct applications will be forwarded to Hays Banking Secretarial.

Hays Banking Secretarial

Administration/Office Manager to £27,000 AAE

MRG, a rapidly expanding specialist recruitment group which is part of an international network, is seeking to strengthen its Head Office operation by recruiting a commercially minded Administration/Office Manager.

This autonomous role will entail facilities management, personnel, purchasing, insurance, cost analysis and the prioritisation of ongoing projects in a busy and sometimes hectic environment.

You must be an effective communicator who thrives under pressure. Ideally aged over 25 years with experience gained in a small/medium sized company, you will be highly numerate with a flexible hands on approach. Excellent prospects for future progression.

To apply please post or fax your CV to Joanna Bayman at
The Management Resource Group
Hanover House, 73/74 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS
Tel: 0171 430 0125 Fax: 0171 242 2909

INVESTMENT BANKING

1:1 TO MD - c.£26,000 basic + overtime and banking benefits

TEAM SECRETARY - c. £18,000 + overtime and banking benefits

Global securities firm is currently seeking two intelligent, proactive and personable high energy professionals to provide top quality secretarial and administrative support in the Investment Banking Department.

PA TO MD

Duties would include arranging daily schedule and organising trips both domestically and internationally, communicating effectively with counterparts at clients, liaising with headquarters in New York, maintaining a sophisticated rolodex database, processing multicurrency expense accounts and other support /administrative tasks as required.

Prior experience of 2 years or more in a comparable position in Corporate Finance and/or M&A required. In addition, prior exposure (3-5 years) to the financial services industry is highly desirable.

The successful candidate would display the highest level of commitment and dedication (including flexible hours) common sense, attention to detail, dynamism as well as excellent communication skills, team work and a good sense of humour. Fast (70wpm) accurate typing, 110 wpm shorthand, advanced W4W 6.0, intermediate Powerpoint and Excel knowledge. Highly developed communication skills are essential and conversational French would be an advantage.

TEAM SECRETARY

12 - 18 months experience in Corporate Finance or M&A. Working for a team of five and one Director. High typing content coupled with complex travel arrangements. Accuracy and organisational skills essential. Fast typing, excellent MS office skills, shorthand an advantage. Good sense of humour and flexible attitude to hours required.

Please send your application, including a detailed biography and compensation requirements to Box No 3677

All applications will be maintained in the strictest confidence.
No Agencies please.

"Mirror Group"

Senior PA

We are looking for an experienced PA to assist the General Manager/Group Operations Director whose responsibilities include a wide range of departments from Printing, IT, Editorial Support to all New Media activities for the Group.

This position offers a wide variety of responsibilities for those eager to become involved in a number of exciting projects and involves extensive liaison at senior level within the Company.

Previous experience working at director level is essential, as well as excellent organisational and first class secretarial skills, including W4W and Excel. Experience of minuting meetings and an ability to use initiative and to work well under pressure are required; shorthand is useful although not essential.

We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. To apply please send a current C.V. with a daytime telephone number and salary details, quoting Ref. number GM1 to:

Group Personnel Manager, Mirror Group plc, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP.

The Mirror Mirror People

AUDIO SECRETARY/PA £17,500

Experienced PA required to work for 2 Directors with diverse interests in property and sport. This small W.1. office will often leave you unsupervised, so someone trustworthy and able to work on own initiative is essential.

You will need to be confident, friendly and smart, with a sound knowledge of W4W 7, and proven organisational skills.

Fax CVs to The Holborn Property Co. Ltd. on 0171-629-6040 or post to 27 Maddox Street London W1R 9LE

SECRETARY / TRAINEE RESEARCHER

Executive Search Consultancy, to £18K

We need a bright, well-presented audio secretary to work for a busy director and help run our office in Mayfair. In addition to excellent computer skills, you will need a confident telephone manner, good inter-personal skills, a keen eye for detail and a sense of fun. If you enjoy working with a small but professional team and would like to become involved in our business, please write to:

Louise Mutton, Thomas Cole Kinder Limited,
16 Berkeley Street, London W1X 6HL
Fax: 0171 355 1574

FEDA **Further Education Development Agency**

PA/Administrator

Oxford Street, London
Salary up to £16,500

The Further Education Development Agency (FEDA) provides training, consultancy and research and development services to the FE sector.

Supporting FEDA's Director of Finance and Resource Management and FEDA's Head of Secretariat, your role will be to provide efficient, effective and confidential secretarial and administrative support. Duties will include developing and maintaining appropriate office procedures and filing systems, keeping the diary, prioritising incoming mail, and production of various correspondence and other documents using Windows applications and audio systems.

You will need previous administrative/secretarial experience, and the ability to work without supervision on your own initiative. Excellent organisational and time management skills with the ability to effectively organise and prioritise a complex and varied workload are essential for this post.

For further details and an application form, please contact Janice Bentley, Personnel Officer, on 0171 962 1280. The closing date for applications is Friday 21st March 1997.

FEDA is committed to Equal Opportunities.

PARTNERS SECRETARY/PA

Professional, well organised and experienced PA/Secretary required by the Partners of busy office of consulting engineers based in the West End. Must have strong all-round skills, able to show initiative, computer literacy essential. (Lotus WordPro /Approach). Salary £17K

Fax CV to Steve Calder
Campbell Reith Hill
0171-839-3221

The Heart Hospital

Secretary/Personal Assistant

£16,000 - £19,000 dependant on experience

Applications are invited from experienced secretaries/P.A.'s to work for the Chief Executive. The Heart Hospital is a 100 bed Cardiothoracic Hospital in the medical district of London which will open to patients in 1998.

Initially the role will be wide ranging and will involve working for the small commissioning team, participation in the commissioning process, planning and setting up systems as well as note taking at meetings.

The future role will be as P.A. to the Chief Executive for the hospital and will involve contact with consultant medical staff, all grades of hospital staff as well as UK and overseas visitors, in addition to the usual secretarial role.

You will have been working at least 10 years, two years of which in a similar role, have good organisational, exceptional interpersonal and excellent secretarial skills. Shorthend is not a job requirement.

Applications by CV only with hand written covering letter to Richard Dodds, Chief Executive at the Heart Hospital, 47 Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DG.

Closing date: 10th March 1997.

SECRETARY/P.A
SCANDINAVIAN SHIPBROKERAGE CO.

We are a small well established shipbrokerage company with offices off High Street Kensington, looking to employ soonest a secretary/P.A. the right person will be a self-starter, energetic and willing to help out with all tasks involved in managing a small office. You must also have good experience in typing and good command of English. Shorthand/speed writing is not a requirement but an advantage. Your salary will be pds 18/20.000 dependent upon experience.

Please answer with cv to:
Larsson Shipping (UK) Ltd
10, Napier Place
London W14 8IG
Attention: Christian Larsson

JETABOUT

SECRETARY PLUS

Salary c.17,000 plus benefits

Jetabout is the Qantas Airways tour operator selling holidays to Australia and New Zealand, the Far East, North America and round world.

We are looking for a secretary and team player for our very busy Hammersmith office to support our business expansion in the UK and across Europe. Key responsibilities include telephone reception and administrative support to the MD and Office Manager.

You will be working for an MD in an international business environment, preferably in the travel industry. You will be around 25-30 years old proficient in Ami-Pro, Freelance graphics and Lotus 123, with minimum speeds of keyboard 60 wpm and shorthand 90wpm.

If you are self confident, enjoy taking initiative and responsibility for your own decisions and thrive in a pressure environment send your CV including daytime telephone number and a passport size photograph to **Anne Worsley, Office Manager, Jetabout, Sovereign House, 361 King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9NJ.**

The Jetabout Office is no smoking and the company is an equal opportunities employer

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One of the best equipped Colleges in Europe

NEW VIC
Newham Sixth Form College

NewVic opened in September 1992 and is one of the best equipped Colleges in Europe. We have approximately 2,000 full-time and part-time students. We offer a wide range of programmes including A Level, BTEC and City & Guilds in a superb working and learning environment. We actively promote equality of opportunity and parity of esteem between levels and types of programme.

Personal Assistant to the Principal

36 hours per week
Salary: Scale 6 (£16,642 - £17,675 per annum incl.)

This is an exceptional opportunity for an experienced PA to provide effective secretarial and administrative support to the Principal of NewVic, including word processing, maintaining the Principal's diary, arranging and taking minutes at meetings, dealing with visitors and telephone calls, handling correspondence, and carrying out a wide range of general administrative duties in a lively and stimulating college environment. The post holder will also have managerial responsibility for a team of administrative staff in the central reception area of the College.

Closing date: Wednesday 19th March 1997 4pm.

Application forms and further details from Personnel Section, Newham Sixth Form College, Prince Regent Lane, Plaistow, London E13 8SG. Tel: 0171 473 4110.

NewVic welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The College has been designed to provide disabled access throughout and we encourage applicants with disabilities to apply.

Administrative Assistant/Junior Secretary

Of graduate calibre sought by small busy international headhunting company based in SW1. Database management (will train), reception/filing/general office duties, knowledge of Wordperfect for Windows essential. Salary £13,000 neg. a.a.e.

Applications in writing with CVs to:
Mrs J.Irvine Becher/Ringman & Partners
25 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LD

Demon Internet

PA/Secretary to the Managing Director

Demon Internet Limited is the leading Internet access provider in the UK, based in Finchley, London. Growth is fundamental to the Company as it maintains market leadership and develops quality systems for the exciting future of global Internet access.

We are looking for the unique combination of a confident and communicative individual with strong secretarial skills and a technical bias, to work with our Managing Director. The ideal candidate will have an excellent working knowledge of the standard Office suite, an ability to minute technical meetings and experience of the Internet, Web browsers and email.

Do you have an interest in and an ability to learn new software? Could you offer a flexible, pro-active approach to the role? Are you patient, methodical and conscientious?

Please send your CV to the Personnel Department with a covering letter, quoting the reference number HO/1051, to:

PERSONNEL,
Demon Internet Ltd.
Gateway House,
322 Regents Park Road,
London, N3 2QQ

Tel: 0181 371 1103
Email: personnel@demon.net
Fax: 0181 371 1228

£14,350 - £19,826 *Bircham Newton*

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

This role is within the Secretariat of the CITB, dedicated to the provision of training and support to companies engaged in the construction industry.

You will be working with Board and Committee Secretaries to support committees and working parties, maintaining committee membership lists, preparing agendas and papers, arranging meetings, drafting minutes and ensuring that decisions are acted on.

The role involves widespread liaison within the CITB and with trade unions, employers and educational institutes so we are looking for someone who is well educated, professional and with good interpersonal and communication skills. Candidates should also have experience in servicing committees and in the preparation of agendas, minutes and reports. Word Processing skills are essential and you must be experienced in the use of office PCs.

The nature of the work requires a high level of analytical thought, the to ability present material concisely and to assess the financial and legal implications of proposals.

Applicants must hold a full driving licence and be able to spend some time away from home.

CITB welcomes applications from suitably qualified people regardless of sex, race, marital status, age or disability. Appointments will be made solely on merit.

For a job description and application form please telephone (01553) 612745.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 19 March 1997.

CITB IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ORGANISATION

CITB

PA to the Director

Farnham, Surrey **Circa £19.5K**

With over 3,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, the Surrey Institute is one of Europe's largest centres of Higher Education in Art, Design, Media and Communications.

Based in pleasant surroundings close to the centre of this historic market town, the high profile position of Personal Assistant will assist and support the Director in his role as Chief Executive of the Institute through the provision of a comprehensive administrative and secretarial service.

With a minimum of three years experience in an office manager or personal assistant role, you will have already developed the necessary organisational, presentation and communication skills and the confidence to deal effectively with all levels of internal and external contacts.

You should possess first class secretarial skills, including shorthand, and be experienced in Word Perfect software in a windows environment.

For an application form and further details, please contact the Personnel Department on (01252) 732216 (24hours) or e-mail ebarley@surrart.ac.uk quoting ref: D4.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 19 March 1997.

No agencies

THE SURREY INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN

DK

LEGAL SECRETARY

Covent Garden

Dorling Kindersley, international publisher of highly illustrated books and CD-ROMs require a Legal Secretary to work for the Group Legal Director.

You will have at least 2 years' legal experience together with excellent word processing skills, loads of initiative and a thorough knowledge of Word for Windows.

If you are ready for a move to a young, dynamic, creative company please apply in writing enclosing full CV stating current salary and typing speed (quoting Ref. No. 7C2/18) to Carole Mackenzie, Personnel Manager, 9 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 8PS.

Applications close 19th March 1997.

A. Nelson & Co. Ltd

Manufacturers of Homoeopathic Medicines

High Calibre PA

Wimbledon, SW London - up to £21,000 pa

A. Nelson & Co. Ltd are the market leaders in the rapidly expanding complementary medicines sector. We are a dynamic, innovative company with over 135 years heritage and experience in the market.

We are currently looking for a high calibre PA to the Managing Director and the Finance Director with excellent secretarial skills supplemented by smart appearance, mature outlook, good personality and sense of humour.

This is no circus! But you will enjoy juggling a variety of tasks – often under pressure – and looking for ways to ease the load of these busy executives.

Ideally you will have a minimum of five years experience at Director level. Good shorthand skills are essential (80 w.p.m.+), coupled with excellent, accurate typing skills. You will be able to prioritise your demanding workload and use your initiative.

If you're looking for a challenge, this position may be what you've been looking for.

Call 0181 780 4200 for an application form or send a CV with current salary details to: Pam Starkey, A. Nelson & Co. Ltd, Broadheath House, 83 Parkside, London, SW19 5LP.

Closing date for applications is 21 March 1997.

nelsons Bach NELSON RUSSELL

MAYFAIR

Prop Co seeking office "junior". Qualities required: educated speaking voice, good education: common sense: reliability: slow but accurate typing, shorthand or speed writing desirable; computing knowledge desirable: dog lover.

Commencing salary in the region of £10,000 neg. Position available immediately.

Please send your CV to Elizabeth De La Rue, 96 Park Street, London W1Y 3RJ or fax on 0171 499 1144

DIRECTORS SECRETARY
West End Commercial Surveyors

A well educated, organised & experienced secretary is required to work with two Directors. Understanding of Word for Windows is essential and a knowledge of Access Database and Excel Spreadsheets an advantage.

The ideal candidate will be over 25 and a non-smoker. Salary £20,000 - £22,500.

Please reply with CV to
Wilkinson Williams,
9 Park Place,
London SW1A 1LP.

Bored Secretaries.

If you are looking for an opportunity to move away from secretarial, join Foxton's Property Management Department. Run your own Property Management section taking responsibility for 100 properties or more, in a progressive fast moving organisation. Must be well educated, hard working, have a great sense of humour, sound comp skills, will to learn, car driver Salary £18 - £22k.

Tel 0171 373 5533.

[illegible]

Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

..City...City...City...City...City...City...City...City.

Rugby Days!! Team Secretary £17,000

This is an exciting opening for a young and enthusiastic secretary to work for two dynamic Directors of this European Bank. The role will be varied, and to accompany the secretarial content you will be arranging events such as wine tasting evenings and rugby days. You will be on the ball and able to use your own initiative. Skills: 50 wpm / Word for Windows.
Please call Lucy Davis.

American Dynamo £18,000

Great opportunity for a second jobber to join this growing Investment Bank. You will support a team of busy and fun American bankers, co-ordinating their itinaries and *creating* presentations. You must be a confident team player, a quick thinker with a good sense of humour. Skills: 40 wpm / computer literacy.
Please call Katy Burke.

Human Resources Administrator £20,000

Are you hungry for your next step up? In this involved role you work as the administrator in the HR department co-ordinating everything from interviews and induction packs through to appraisals and dealing with temps. Use Word for Windows / Excel and proven communication skills in this challenging role. Age 22-30.
Please call Kia Felton-Smith.

Telephone: 0171-390 7000 Fax: 0171-390 2997

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

...West End...West End...West End...West End...

Action Packed £18 - 20,000 SW1

International Management consultants are looking for a young, dynamic secretary to work for two MD's and run the small London office. You will be juggling priorities including typing presentations, liaising internationally and managing the office. Speed, accuracy and WP literacy essential *to become part of this friendly &* busy team. Immediately available?
Please call Camilla Loughton.

2nd Jobber £15 - 18,000 W1

Young professional Executive Search company based in stunning offices need a smart corporate team secretary to assist three busy guys. Your confidence, enthusiasm and good solid skills will equip you to meet this challenge. You must have 55 wpm and Word for Windows experience.
Please call Tara Lyons.

Sec/Graduate £24,000 Pkg W1

Top consultant of blue chip, international headhunters needs a proactive, intelligent secretary. This is a stimulating and varied role working at Board level with scope for plenty of involvement and some research. Excellent educational background, degree preferred, sound secretarial experience, fast audio typing (60+ wpm) and computer literacy essential. Spanish or French useful.
Please call Elizabeth Wood.

Telephone: 0171-434 4512 Fax: 0171-437 9239

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

PERSONNEL

Young, organised secretary with good sec. skills to assist Personnel Manager of major Publishing House. Varied and interesting, this job requires initiative, discretion, some admin experience, diplomacy and an ability to work in! £14-15,000 plus super benefits.

Rogers & Gillespie
(Rec Cons)
071 488 0744

Senior Secretary

Recently established, fast expanding corporate finance co. needs efficient sec. for modern West End offices. Must have good sec. skills, at least 3 yrs exp. W4W & spreadsheet exp. ess. Some knowledge of Russian useful, but not ess. C£21k. Please send CV & covering letter to:

Bella Filce
Argent Associates
14-16 Regent Street
London SW1Y 4PH

BLUE CHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Up to £22,000 Package

Well organised PAs and Team Secretaries are required to work for a dynamic team in the corporate headquarters of a high profile international company.

Responsibilities are varied and include arranging complex diary schedules and *travel itineraries, organising conferences and researching* for project-based work. Acting as a focal point of contact for both internal and external clients, you will need to prioritise your own workload and use your initiative.

There are a number of openings which will be starting immediately, initially as long term contracts with a view to becoming permanent.

You will be able to show evidence of your organisational skills and ability to juggle responsibilities within a secretarial role. You will also have knowledge of Windows based software and a typing speed of 50 wpm+. Shorthand and presentation packages would be useful but not essential.

If you enjoy working in a busy environment and are looking for a new challenge please call us now.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.
All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

INNOVATIVE TEAM PLAYER

£21,000 Package including overtime

An international company based in the West End is looking for high calibre individuals to provide outstanding support to their global management team.

You will need excellent organisational and administrative skills to arrange complex itineraries, client conferences and meetings for your specialist project team. You must be resourceful, intuitive and able to work within a high pressure environment, with a flexible, hard working and proactive approach to your role. Your excellent secretarial and communication skills will be fully utilised and your willingness to learn will be *rewarded with additional responsibilities.* The innovative style of working will suit candidates with previous team experience who are now keen to develop their time and people management techniques. Skills of 50 wpm typing, W4W, Excel and Powerpoint are essential.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.
All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

Enjoy temping! Want to earn money, find the right permanent job or increase your career prospects?

With Crone Corkill and AIR MILES it's easy!

Our friendly, helpful team of Consultants has lots of opportunities for secretaries with 60+ wpm typing and good windows packages. We'll give you the best hourly rates AND we're the only agency to give all our temps AIR MILES awards.

Make your assets take you further - call our Temp Desk NOW and get your career off to a flying start.

Together we'll get you there!

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Crone Corkill
Temporary Recruitment

FAST, FURIOUS & FRENETIC (& THAT'S JUST THE MUSIC).

HMV is one of the UK's most exciting and successful retailers of music, video and games. Now we're looking for two lively and experienced Secretaries and an equally talented Receptionist to keep things running smoothly at our West End offices.

For all the roles you'll need to be PC literate and have GCSE English and Maths (or equivalent). You'll also have at least two years' experience in a relevant position. If you have experience of WordPro and Lotus 123 you'll be at an advantage but, most importantly of all, you must share our love of popular music.

For the two secretarial roles you'll also need recognised secretarial and typing qualifications, be able to type accurately at 65 wpm and work well to deadlines.

SECRETARY, OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT
C. £17,000

You'll be working as part of a young and friendly team in the hectic core department of HMV. As well as supporting the stores and dealing with customer enquiries, you'll provide administrative and secretarial support to the Divisional and Regional Managers and the Department. It's a fast-moving role which involves everything from taking telephone calls and organising meetings to maintaining an effective filing system and liaising with other members of the Department and Head Office. *Ref: LM/01*

SECRETARY TO MAINTENANCE MANAGER
C. £17,000

This is a busy role which will require a cool head and a calm attitude. You'll work within the Store Development Department, supporting the Maintenance Manager and Store Development team and providing telephone support to more than 100 stores and offices nationwide. As well as operating a PC-based helpdesk system, keeping accurate records and organising the payment of invoices, you'll also handle account queries and liaise with store managers and Head Office Departments. Ref: LM/02

RECEPTIONIST
C. £14,000

This is a new position which will suit someone who wants to take on a proactive role. You'll take responsibility for our switchboard and reception and provide a professional and high quality service supporting the aims of the Office Services Department. You'll also help maintain our excellent image and provide occasional administrative assistance to Head Office. Ref: LM/03

✪

If you think you fit the bill, please send your CV and covering letter to Liz Moulton, Human Resources Assistant, HMV UK Limited, Film House, 142 Wardour Street, London W1V 4LN. *Whichever role you apply for, please remember to quote the appropriate reference.*

Closing date: 14th March 1997.

HMV

CHALLENGING POSITION

WEST END SOLICITORS

Partner's secretary required for small hectic international commercial practice; some legal experience necessary; WP6.1; salary £19,500 negotiable. No Agencies. Ref: NB.

Call 637 3071 or fax CV to 637 5516.

Make This Truly A WINSDAY!
PA to Marketing Director
International Leisure & Hospitality
£24k + Excellent Benefits

So you are looking for something special, a career not a job, a role which will utilise all your talents and skills! If we printed this company's name you would know them immediately and be impressed with its reputation for being a first class employer. If you have an excellent PA background within a Blue Chip environment, 100 wpm shorthand and good Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint, call Corrina for an immediate interview.

Senior Secretary
Global Financial Institution
£19k + Benefits + On Site Gym!

Superb opportunity to get involved and organise to your heart's content! Working for a team of International Executives this role can offer you variety and benefits that are hard to beat! If you have good GCSE's, excellent secretarial skills and a steady CV call Anna for an immediate interview.

TEMPS! TEMPS! TEMPS!

Receptionist/Secretary
Fabulous Temporary to Permanent Opportunity
Up to £15,000 + lots of free cake and biscuits

We need you if you can answer yes to the following:

- Do you enjoy lots of people contact?
- Can you put people at ease very quickly?
- Can you stay calm when busy consultants are desperate for your help?
- Are you tough enough to shout at suppliers if they are *not giving us a good service?*

Actually we need a combination of Mrs Doubtfire and Tank Girl! We really are a nice bunch but do need to have a professional, friendly receptionist and secretary with 50 wpm typing. Ideal age will be early 20s and you will need to be well presented and spoken. Interested? Call now for an interview.

PAN EUROPEAN
RECRUITMENT

TEL: 0171 734 8484
FAX: 0171 734 8501

PUBLISHING
c25K

Brilliant opportunity for Career PA with excellent Senior level experience to work for Chief Exec. of major publishing co. Your day will include everything from efficient organisation of the chief executive's affairs to liaising with bestselling authors. Speeds 90/55.

0171 437 2277

JUDY FISHER
ASSOCIATES
Recruitment Consultants

PUBLIC RELATIONS £15,000-£18,000

We have five assistant positions in Top PR Consultancies for dynamic *individuals seeking a new challenge.* These roles will be of interest to graduate secretaries wishing to expand their careers and work in busy, varied, team spirited *environments. If you are looking for* involved roles where you can make a difference. **Please call Lisa Kelly: 0171 447 5542.**

MEDIA
appointments

7a Langley Street
London
WC2H 9JA
◆
Facsimile
0171 379 0113

PA

for design consultancy Islington London N1 working for director must be numerate and computer literate. Salary £18,000.

Please send CV to
The office manager
@ Box No 3835

Executive PA
Investment Banking
£25-28,000 aae (+ banking bens)

This involved post brings with it a great deal of responsibility, interest and job satisfaction in support to a newly appointed Senior Executive who is Head of the IT Division. An interest in IT and experience of the international banking industry together with strong secretarial skills (S/H preferred) are essential and will be fully utilised in this role which will also involve extensive client liaison, and scheduling of complex itineraries and meetings. An ability to prioritise and thrive in a highly pressurised and volatile environment is a must! Mid 30's.

MAY & STEPHENS

Ibex House, 42-47 Minories,
London EC3N 1DY
Tel: 0171 488 9922 Fax: 0171 702 3331

The
STROKE
Association
CARING *for* TODAY - RESEARCHING *for* TOMORROW

SENIOR SECRETARY
for a busy P.R. Department within a charity
£15,000

If you are well organised, have a good command of English, enjoy juggling more than one task at a time, have a good telephone manner and a sense of humour, please apply. Good typing speed, knowledge of Word for Windows 6, Excel, shorthand and/or audio all desirable.

Please write enclosing your CV to:
Monica Hart, Communications Adviser, The Stroke Association,
CHSA House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ.
Closing date *Wednesday 12th March 1997.*

The Stroke Association raises funds for research, prevention, welfare, information and community services. Registered Charity No 211015

DIRECTORS PA/SECRETARY

c.£18,000 aae + Bonus West End

For a fast growing property company, must have excellent sec skills + SHORTHAND with *experience at senior level.*

Call Margaret Lewis on
0171 499 9007 or fax CV
0171 499 9622

TOP SEC/PA
PROPERTY CO.
£18.5K, + BENS

To work for Fund Management team of 3. Organising events, client liaison, fully involved. Property or Professional *background an adv.* W4W + solid track record please.

Courtney & Company
0171 834 6000

All Box number replies should be addressed to:

BOX No:- ......
C/o The Times Newspapers
P.O. BOX 3553,
Virginia Street,
London E1 9GA

GLOBAL 1 TO 1

£22,000 + MS + BENS

A one-to-one role working for the Head of Global Operations. Excellent secretarial skills including shorthand and Microsoft Office are required to co-ordinate an extremely complex diary and extensive international travel. Financial background preferred but not essential.

Please contact Margaret Soroban.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

JONATHAN WREN

DESK ASSISTANTS/PAs x 3

TO £20,000 + MS + BENS

Excellent opportunities exist for secretaries with strong administration and banking experience to work within some of London's leading Banks. The roles are all TRADING FLOOR based and incorporate database maintenance and the organisation of travel and entertainment. Age 21-30.

Please contact Melinda Marks.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

JONATHAN WREN

RECEPTIONISTS x 2

£15,000 TO £19,000 + BENS

I urgently need RECEPTIONISTS for a leading City Investment Bank. There is a senior and junior position, both requiring polished, professional individuals and relevant reception experience. The roles incorporate greeting guests and organising meeting rooms.

Please contact Jane Edwards.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

JONATHAN WREN

DESK TOP PUBLISHING

RATES: TO £12.50 PER HOUR

Two renowned Investment Banks are currently seeking 4 presentation experts with excellent knowledge of Powerpoint for long term temporary assignments. The hours are 1.00 pm to 9.00 pm, shift hours, and 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Candidates must be available immediately!

Please contact Dezna Berry.

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd.,
No.1 New Street, London EC2M 4TP
Tel: 0171 623 1266 Fax: 0171 626 5259

JONATHAN WREN

PA to SENIOR CONSULTANT

B·M·A
COMMUNICATIONS

BMA Communications is a fast growing, lively, award winning and independent PR and marketing consultancy specialising in consumer goods and retailing. We are looking for a bright, enthusiastic, self motivated person to work as a Personal Assistant to one of the company's Senior Consultants. If you have experience of Microsoft Word, pride yourself on attention to detail at every level, can cope with deadlines and working under pressure, and are looking for a step up from the usual secretarial job in an exciting, stimulating and rewarding position. Send your CV to: *Jacquie Jeffery*

BMA Communications
Althorp Studios
4-6 Althorp Road
Wandsworth Common
London SW17 7ED
Fax: 0181 682 2488

Salary £17,300 + BUPA + profit share

PA TO DIRECTOR

We require a dynamic PA with a mature outlook to work within a successful financial PR company.

The applicant *should be well presented and possess fast, accurate* shorthand and WP skills (a good working knowledge of W4W & Powerpoint is essential), excellent organisation and communication skills and have the ability to cope in a pressurised environment.

Please reply in writing, enclosing full CV with salary expectations to:

Jane Kay
Focus Financial Communications
30 Coleman Street
London EC2R 5AN
Fax No 0171 600 1365

Focus
Financial
Communications

EXPERIENCED CONVEYANCING AUDIO SECRETARY

required for expanding, eclectic, go-ahead Solicitors' practive in Islington. Precision and good speeds essential. Attractive salary offered to the right person.

Please send CV's to: Mrs Betts, The Betts Partnership, "Phelps Cottage", 357 Upper Street, Islington. N1 0PD.

(No Agencies).

ASHLEY PHILLIPS

C.£16,000 - £18,000.
WEST END PROPERTY SECRETARY.

We are a small but dynamic private practice of surveyors looking for a SENIOR SECRETARY to work for the partners.

We are seeking a well presented individual who is energetic and flexible. Fast audio typing, initiative and an ability to work under pressure are essential. Property experience an advantage.

Fax your CV to Lesley Chaudry: 0171 499 2189.

UNFLAPPABLE PA TO CHAIRMAN...

...required for an interesting international business based in EC1. This challenging position demands an intelligent, quick thinking, flexible PA with lots of initiative who would be happy working in a small office (no prima-donnas please). We are looking for someone who has excellent organisational & secretarial skills (inc *s/h 100wpm & WP 5.1/Win) & is* resilient, hardworking, loyal & discreet.

Salary AAE: Please reply with CV & covering letter to Box No 3673 (no agencies)

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY/ASSISTANT
THE INSTITUTE OF ISMAILI STUDIES, SW1.

Administrative Secretary/Assistant required, reporting to the head of the Department of Academic Research and Publications. Applicants should have at least three years' office experience (preferably within an academic environment), good W4W computing skills, and excellent interpersonal and work management skills. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Please write with full CV to: The Administrator, The Institute of Ismaili Studies, 42-44 Grosvenor, London SW1W 0EB. (Tel 0171 881 6000).

More Than A Secretary!

To assist in co-ordinating a team of maintenance tradesmen who operate in residential properties in the Belgravia/Knightsbridge area. Able to liaise with both professional and private clients on a day-to-day basis. Must be a good communicator and be able to work under pressure. Computer literacy essential. *Property experience preferable. Salary negotiable.*

CV's to Mastforce Ltd,
22 Hans Place,
London SW1X 0EP.

FIRST CLASS SEC/PA 28+

Required for small but busy West End Surveyors. Must be fast and accurate. Knowledge of WordPerfect for Windows 6.1 and PROPERTY EXPERIENCE ESSENTIAL.

Excellent salary + bonus.
20 days annual leave.

Fax CV's to 0171 637 8870 ref:621

DIRECTOR'S PA
£18,000

Top Producing division of International Property Consultants needs outgoing hardworking PA with previous Estates Mgmt experience.

Call Suze/Jocelyn - 0171 589 1866
ST JAMES'S CONSULTANCY

SHEILA CHILDS RECRUITMENT

£25,000 - PR W1 -Vibrant role for a PA par excellence. Must thrive on pace and be expert at juggling a multitude of tasks. Age 26-37. 90/60 - Shorthand a must.

£24,000 City - Chairmans PA - exciting opportunity for bright resourceful team player. Age 25-35. 60+ W4W + Powerpoint.

£22,000 - Banking Package - City - French speaking secretary for fast moving Corporate Finance. Age 22-35. Good W4W + Powerpoint.

4 Ganton Street, London W1V 1LJ
Telephone: 0171 437 3111 Fax: 0171 437 4050

Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

OFFICE MANAGER
£25,000

A key role in this international holding company offering total involvement for a proactive individual with a keen business mind. A flair for prioritising and a confident, professional manner will prove invaluable.
80wpm shorthand, 60wpm typing.
Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA TO FD
£22,000 + PKG

Extremely easy going, young and friendly financial director described as a "modern manager" needs an enthusiastic PA. Suit someone with big company background-looking for the next step up the ladder. Word for Windows and Excel. 55wpm typing.
Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

COUNTRY HOUSES
£20,000

Supporting this charming partner, you will enjoy lots of personal work and client contact in this prestigious west end property company. A lively, enthusiastic personality with professional flair will fit in perfectly.
Age mid 20's. 60wpm typing.
Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TEAM ORGANISER
£24,000 PKG

A varied, interesting brief including organising events and producing Powerpoint presentations for a team of corporate banking managers. Your excellent organisational skills will be appreciated by (allegedly!) the bank's nicest team. Normal hours.
Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HR CHALLENGE
£30,000

A very special person is needed as PA to the MD of this HR oriented company. Your persuasive skills, fluent French or German, organisational skills and enthusiasm will ensure your success with this progressive corporation. 60wpm typing.
Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Our prestigious clients based in City / West End / Docklands seek experienced secretaries for short and long-term bookings. If you have 50wpm (s/h useful), W4W, Powerpoint or Excel skills and are looking for a temp team as friendly and efficient as you are. Call Rhodita Marsell at Tate Appointments on 0171 408 0425 for an immediate interview.

Personal Assistant
£20,000 + PRP & Xmas bonus

The head of this 'business' has been in place for 6 months and is now looking for a competent and enthusiastic PA to join him and set up his office from scratch. Organise his working life (and those of his two colleagues) and then help with plans for growth which will include increasing the number of staff in London and opening an office in Scotland. Your number one boss is the National Director of Corporate Finance, he enjoys a varied working life including public speaking engagements and therefore your position should be equally diverse. A performance related bonus is planned, current package on offer is c£22,500 + other benefits including a comprehensive training programme. Word for Windows, Excel and PowerPoint a must.

Susan Doughty Recruitment
39A Curzon Street London W1Y 7RF
Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7922

PA - BOARD DIRECTOR
LEADING INVESTMENT BANK
c.£28,000 + BENS

This prominent city finance house seeks a pro-active, professional and accomplished PA to work alongside a senior Board Director. This is a demanding and challenging role which will utilise you first class organisation skills. You will need to be an upfront communicator with excellent presentation and a wealth of experience at senior level. Ess skills: useable SH, Word. Excel and Powerpoint. The successful candidate will enjoy an excellent salary and benefits package, fantastic working environment and a varied, involving role. Please call for an immediate interview.

[illegible]

TRADING FLOOR

£25,000 Package

Our client, a leading global investment bank, requires a strong and highly motivated secretary who can cope with the pressures and thrills of a trading environment. Supporting a young successful international team in the developing area of Emerging Markets, your pivotal role will include the organisation of roadshows and complex travel itineraries. Previous team orientated experience in a deadline driven environment and the ability to demonstrate your calm approach to manage conflicting priorities and to show outstanding secretarial skills will prove essential to achieving success in this role.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.
All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

WEST END BANKING

£25,000 Package

This international private bank requires a graduate-calibre Business Assistant to work for the Director of Corporate Finance. Organising your boss, supervising junior staff and liaising with clients will be integral parts of your role as well as working on your own projects to monitor business information and departmental development.

A calm, highly organised and intelligent mind is a necessity to work alongside this high powered individual. Proven secretarial experience with MS Office and 55 wpm typing are essential skills to move into this exciting client focused role. If you feel you would suit a job within a team of driven graduates, please call us now.

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.
All applicants are positively welcomed.

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

DIRECTORS' TEMPORARIES

We require more good temporaries with Word for Windows, Excel, Powerpoint. Up to £10 per hour. Age 25-35.

0171 629 9323

DIRECTORS' TEMPORARIES

A confident individual required for prestigious West-End Investment Co. Knowledge of Word, Excel and PowerPoint is essential. The ideal candidate must be pro-active, 'O/A' level educated & have excellent command of English language.
£20K + amazing benefits. Pref age 22-26.

Josephine Sammons Ltd.
POUPALT HOUSE, 46 FISH STREET HILL
LONDON EC3R 6BR
Tel: 0171 293 7000 Fax: 0171 626 5759

PARIS IN SPRINGTIME!

An excellent opportunity to join our team of 80 in Paris from 27 April to 1 May. We are looking for outgoing, presentable people, some fluent French speakers needed, to assist during this international conference. Travel and accommodation paid. Oui?! Call Darren, Susan, Rhodita or Jo at Tate on 0171 408 0425.

TATE
TEMP SPECIALISTS

Hays Banking Personnel
SECRETARIAL DIVISION

SENIOR PA/DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

CITY £10.50 + p/hr

Exclusive US Bank requires an exclusive PA. You will report to one of the Bank's senior directors and be directly responsible for his arrangements and correspondence. You will have prior banking secretarial experience and a thorough knowledge of W4W, Powerpoint and preferably Excel. You type at 60 wpm+, have good Shorthand and are cool and organised under pressure. This is a 3-6 month temporary assignment with a view to permanency including a good package.
Call 0171 638 7003

TRADE FLOOR SECRETARY

CITY £9.50+/hr

We have an exciting and challenging position within this International Bank for an experienced and energetic Trade Floor Secretary. Put your skills to the test by supporting this busy team of Derivatives Traders including extensive travel and meeting arrangements, correspondence, producing reports and telephone liaison. You will be using W4W, Excel and Powerpoint. This is a long term opportunity for the right person - give us a call and further your career!
Call 0171 638 7003

TEAM SECRETARY

City £17-21,000+benefits

Dynamic Global Investment Bank require an effective team player to support 2 Executives in UK Origination. An excellent opportunity to utilize your strong secretarial skills and thorough W4W and Powerpoint knowledge (banking secretarial experience preferred) and grow with the group. A good phone manner is required as there is a lot of phone work. As well as secretarial support you will be involved in organising meetings/conferences and research.
0171 256 5798

TEAM SECRETARY

City £15-18,000+benefits

A polished and professional secretary is needed to support a team in the Unit Trust Pricing area of a renowned British Investment Bank. This would suit a 2nd jobber (typing 50wpm, W4W required) with loads of initiative who can keep the team on track. You will perform administrative duties as well as provide solid secretarial support. A great team to work for who urgently need your help! Long term growth prospects are good.
0171 256 5798

41/42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB.
Tel: 0171 638 7003. Fax: 0171 628 5057

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SECRETARY £14-16k + 27 days hols + pens/STL/sports + social facilities

Would you like to work in one of the most exciting environments in the capital? This is a unique opportunity to work for a Senior Manager in a large catering operation that exists within the organisation. Liaising with wine and other suppliers, printing menus as well as sharing responsibility for the smooth running of a very busy office. You need to be self motivated and have plenty of initiative with 2yrs + secretarial experience and a good knowledge of WordPerfect for Windows. If you are a smartly presented, service orientated 'people person' with confidence and tact and have a good understanding of food and wines then call us now for more details.

Applications for registered disabled people are welcomed.
The House of Commons is an equal opportunities employer.

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
0171 734 7341

YOU'VE TRIED THE REST NOW TEMP WITH THE BEST

Banking and West End

Earn serious money
£8.00-£10.50 per hour + overtime

We guarantee the following:

- *Honest description of the bookings*
- *A warm caring service that puts you first*
- *A professionally run payroll which means fast payment*
- *Regular work*
- *Work for high profile companies, entrepreneurs, the rich and famous!*

We are currently recruiting secretaries at various levels with a minimum of 50 wpm typing and the following skills:

*** Word for Windows *Powerpoint *Excel**

For a warm and caring service that puts you first call us now...

Maine-Tucker Recruitment
0171-734 7341

Aldrich & Company

• Senior Sales Asst
• c£30K (aae) + Pkg

Managing the Sales Assistants; running the Equity trading floor admin systems, co-ordinating roadshows, etc. Must be highly energetic, diplomatic and love responsibility. Call Emily Aldrich.

• Admin PA- EC4
• £21K + B. Bens

Do you want a career in banking? We have a superb opp for an admin / research sec who wants to develop their skills. This friendly, dynamic investment bank needs a real team player. Call Alex Gaze

• PA Trading Floor
• to £25K + B. Bens

1-1. Assist a high profile head of sales on a busy trading floor. Sense of humour & prof approach essential. 'A' levels pref. Fabulous boss who delegates. Superb skills req'd. Call Sarah Turnbull

Tel: 0171 588 8999 CITY RECRUITMENT Fax: 0171 588 8998

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA - c£25k tax free + bens

Monte Carlo, Paris, NY, St Moritz.....

If you'd like to work in these locations on a regular basis (and who wouldn't?) and you have fluent French (written + spoken) with English M/T! it could be yours! This is an incredible opportunity to work as a PA within small team who look after an international family with worldwide interests, co-ordinating their business and private affairs. If you are 25-33yrs old with excellent sec skills (90s/h, 45wpm typing) — you're discreet and tactful with your feet well on the ground - call for more information.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

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career moves

PA/SECRETARY HUMAN RESOURCES c£ 19,000

A busy and interesting role for a committed PA/Secretary working for the Human Resources Director and Executive Assistant for a top Leisure and Entertainment Plc. Based in the beautiful Corporate Head Office you will be liaising with offices throughout the UK, dealing with correspondence and a lot of telephone liaison. booking hospitality events, acting as a lynch pin in the office in the absence of Director/Exec Asst. Excellent communication skills are essential to the heart of this role. Min 3 years sec exp (Director Level)/good sec skills including S/H and superb presentation are important.

Sutherland House, 5-6 Argyll Street, London W1V 1AD.
Tel: 0171 292 2900, Fax: 0171 434 0297

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career moves

TELEVISION AND RADIO TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR £18,000

A new role for an organised administrator with secretarial skills to work in large new offices (TV). reporting to the Training Director. Set up and organise everything to do with training courses, run databases etc. Must be computer literate and ideally have an appreciation of TV/Broadcasting.

HUMAN RESOURCES SECRETARY – £15,000

As Human Resources Secretary reporting to the Head of HR you will have a high profile role in this top Broadcaster. Giving general departmental administrative back up you will be constantly dealing with queries from other departments and general public managing personnel database, organising meetings keeping comprehensive, records etc. HR experience not essential but willingness attention to detail and a bright outgoing personality is essential. Min 60 wpm typ.

Sutherland House, 5-6 Argyll Street, London W1V 1AD.
Tel: 0171 292 2900, Fax: 0171 434 0297

LEGAL SECRETARY £22,000

required for top firm of Solicitors. They are looking for a legal secretary to join this young, professional team. If you have legal experience, 'A' level education, WordPerfect skills then they can offer you a friendly environment, career opportunities and excellent benefits. To find out more....

..please call Caroline on 0171 499 5881
Adecco Elite (Rec Cons)
16 Lansdowne Row,
Berkeley Sq., London W1X 7LN

Adecco Elite

SECRETARY £24,000

required for established city firm. Working for a partner using your excellent secretarial skills and covering a full range of secretarial duties. You will ideally have had 5 years work experience in a professional firm. 'A' level education and good IT understanding. For more information.....

..please call Caroline on 0171 499 5881
Adecco Elite (Rec Cons)
16 Lansdowne Row,
Berkeley Sq., London W1X 7LN

Adecco Elite

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FLUENT FRENCH

TELEVISION - £16,000

This lively TV company is looking for a young PA (up to 25yrs) with fluent French and excellent skills (Word, WP) and at every level you'll need to be the eyes and ears of the office, as well as being able to keep track of [illegible] scheduling and [illegible]. You only need [illegible] (Windows) with your French. Call now for a rare exclusive role.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

ROC

£20,000 + Benefits

Mix With Rich and Famous Partners PA Residential Country Houses

Working for the most prestigious upmarket independent Partnership of international property consultants in a very high profile department. A vacancy has arisen for a first class. experienced PA to work for a very senior partner in magnificent Mayfair offices. This demanding position is very varied and encompassess a huge amount of highly confidential administative and organisational work involving research projects, PR, marketing and client liaison. The role requires a confident, polished, pro-active individual with excellent presentation and 60wpm.

Roc House, 45 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1HD

Phone 0171 499 8658 **Fax** 0171 499 9002

ROC Recruitment

ROC

£26,000 & Excel Benefits

Act on Own Initiative PA to Divisional Head Leading Management Consultants

Paid O/T, Subsidised Restaurants, Gym, Life, Health, BUPA, NC Pension, 25 Days Holiday, IFSTL

Work in open plan offices with very sociable colleagues providing full PA and secretarial service to dynamic senior partner who has a worldwide role. His specialty is recruitment of top level staff and extensive travel means only 25% of his time is spent in London. This is a position which carries a lot of responsibility and is highly confidential as you will be taken action and decisions on his behalf in his absence. 5 'O' levels and 60wpm essential.

Roc House, 45 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1HD

Phone 0171 499 8658 **Fax** 0171 499 9002

ROC Recruitment

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

UXBRIDGE

A LEGAL CAREER? - £16,000

If you've got 55wpm typing and ideally some legal work experience, consider working in an environment where you will be privy to how the legal system works. You'll be an Assistant in the Criminal Law team, helping with [illegible] projects and if you enjoy this there'll be an opportunity to take some exams. If you want an involved role that could lead to an interesting career, call now.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

WA

£22-24k + Bens

GRADUATE SECRETARY

Wonderful opportunity to use not only your excellent secretarial and admin. skills but to actually get involved and be delegated to by a delightful, dynamic boss within this prestigious management consultancy firm. If you thrive in a team environment but also enjoy your own autonomy and responsibility, this could be the job for you. Superb package including 25 days holiday, bonus, pension, health, STL. Must have a secretarial qualification, c.2+ years exp. and pref. Powerpoint.

0171 225 1888

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

GROSVENOR

BRING YOU MEDIA CAREER INTO FOCUS

We are keen to register enthusiastic candidates with strong secretarial skills who are looking for a change or their first foot on the media career ladder.

Our areas of expertise are television, film, publishing, PR, advertising, the Arts and entertainment - register with us and beat the crowd!

GROSVENOR BUREAU
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
TEL: 0171 499 6566
FAX: 0171 493 6320

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD TO £22000 S.E.5

The MD of a flourishing and well-established luxury food importer needs an energetic PA. It's very much an organisational role where your communication, diplomacy and speed of thought will be tested. This challenging position's often complex requiring a self-assured, intelligent juggler with bags of initiative and an elephantine memory. Essential - well educated & computer literate. No 9 - 5ers, please!

PLEASE CALL 0171 373 7779

JIGSAW
RECRUITMENT

Belle

8 Staple Inn London WC1V 7QH
Tel: 0171 404 5655 Fax 0171 831 7581

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT £15,000-£18,000 pa

We are an established independent Secretarial Consultancy with a growing list of first-rate clients. The recruitment team is highly experienced and results-orientated. The atmosphere is informal yet business-like and we seek an additional Consultant with similar qualities.

You should be an experienced Consultant with a proven track record and enjoy the buzz of handling a professional team of temps. (Initially maternity cover). Benefits included profit share, PPP, a lovely location and a dynamic, happy environment.

Please contact Hilary Watts in confidence to discuss.

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

BOOK HEAVEN!

Admin Assistant - £14-16k + bens

This lovely publishing company, based in the West End, need a true Co-ordinator to work with the MD. Help with general enquiries, organise supplies, keep track of sales figures, liaise with overseas agents, journalists and authors and attend exhibitions. This is a very friendly and informal team and they love books of all kinds - art, politics, music, literature. If you have 45wpm typing and this is your idea of heaven, call us now for more details.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

ART BROKERS
2 X PA'S
£14,000+

Two Graduate P.A.'s with excellent skills (80/50wpm) required by this internationally renowned firm. A high level of administration & communication would suit articulate, meticulous, ambitious team players.

Call Suze/Jocelyn - 0171 589 1866
ST JAMES'S CONSULTANCY

SALES ASST / PA - City to £25,000 + Exc Bank Bens

Leading Investment Bank are seeking an experienced Banking PA with SFA registration to support two Equities Sales Managers who are specialists in their field. This position will suit candidates actively looking for involvement in a busy and expanding market. Selected applicants will have good system knowledge ideally MS Office. A or O level educated, be registered SFA and keen to utilise this qualification. This will be a demanding and results orientated environment but for those seeking a challenge and a job they can get their teeth into then look no further.

Please call Nigel on **0171 600 2862**,
fax 0171 726 4290

AUSTEN SMYTHE REC CONS
127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DH

MISON RECRUITMENT

TIP TOP PA

SENIOR SECRETARY

£30,000++ BASE

Plus superb benefits
Head of Global Investment Banking

This is a true 1-1 role supporting a newly appointed Executive Director with responsibilities globally for c900 staff; you will be well educated: A' level or above, with excellent organisational skills and enjoy the responsibility associated with a senior appointment at this level .

Tel 0171-583-5441
Fax 0171-583-1784

WE OFFER EARLY MORNING AND EVENING APPOINTMENTS

Who's Who? - £25,000

They say he is charismatic, demanding and incredibly good at his job. A professional in his field, he headhunts the best people in town. The variety and volume of work requires a sound education, the ability to think on your feet and the confidence and initiataive to develop business opportunities. Skills 100/70. Age 30-40.

0171 629 9323

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

MAINE-TUCKER
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

A CORPORATE RECEPTION - c£19k

+ o/time, dress allowance, sports sub

This international, world class organisation are looking for a smart, experienced Receptionist to work within their reception team. There's nothing [illegible] pure telephone co-ordination, meeting and greeting and providing support front line role in their head offices. Friendly, calm under pressure and fun to work with? Call us now.

18-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 3260

POISED PA/SEC to £30,000 + BONUS

Newly appointed City director of global European comany seeks 'personality plus' SH/Sec with considerable drive and excellent organisational skills. The hours are long but the bonuses are generally excellent. Please fax CV on 0171 355 1395.

MAINSTREAM 0171 495 1830

Marketing Secretary c£16,000 p.a

Our client needs a motivated 2nd jobber to assist a dynamic marketing team in a major West End marketing co. You will need good secretarial/organisational skills and fast typing to thrive in this expanding role within this ambitious, growing company.

JOYCE GUINESS PARTNERSHIP
0171 589 8807
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR £16,000

SW1 trading co needs well spoken/presented 22-29 yr old. Strong liaising and admin content; 60% admin. Small friendly office.

Mrs Prosser
0171 259 6999
Beauchamp Bureau

هكذا من الاصل

[illegible]

Tel: 0171 680 6806

La Crème de la Crème

Fax: 0171 782 7586

HOBStones

Banking Bonanza

£19,000 + Banking Benefits

This is the ideal opportunity to join an internationally renowned bank. They are seeking a number of secretaries to join various divisions including emerging markets, equity research and investment banking. You will be looking after your own team which will involve making travel arrangements, working out complex expenses and liaising with clients. If you have GCSE/O level Maths and English, a solid secretarial background with experience within a blue chip firm and an enthusiastic approach to work then this could be the company for you.

Please call Sara Armitage.

0171 550 7000

RECRUITMENT

HOBStones

Take a Chance

£18,000 - 22,000

You have a unique opportunity to join a small yet prestigious company. You will be the right hand to the Chief Executive which will involve taking dictation, arranging meetings, drafting your own letters and liaising with VIP's. You will need to work on a hands on basis and be willing to assist all members of the company. This position would suit someone who wants to be completely immersed within their job.

If you have WordPerfect for Windows, 50 wpm typing, 80 wpm shorthand, experience of working in a close knit team and unlimited energy then **please call Sara Armitage.**

0171 550 7000

RECRUITMENT

HOBStones

PA/Assistant

£19,000 + Exc Benefits

City based Executive Search/Headhunters who are part of the UK's largest group in this field have an opening for an assistant to work with their senior executive. The role offers scope for involvement in many areas of the business from secretarial support on a 1-1 basis to handling office management issues. This will include recruitment, organising client entertainment and events as well as co-ordinating office facilities. You should be able to demonstrate the confidence and maturity to liaise with clients at the highest level and the ability to juggle and manage constant deadlines. Excellent organisational skills together with 50wpm and Windows knowledge are essential.

Please call Nicky Guise in the City.

0171 550 7000

RECRUITMENT

HOBStones

PA in Sales & Marketing

£21,000

Are you an experienced secretary who likes your boss to value your opinion? If so, this position might be ideal for you. A leading Management Consultant wishes to recruit a dynamic PA to provide secretarial support to 2 Senior Partners within a lively Sales & Marketing Department. You will be encouraged to get totally involved in the day to day running of the department where your opinion and ideas will be frequently sought. 60wpm typing, Word for Windows, Excel and Powerpoint are essential. For an interview **please call Millie Pierre-Louis.**

0171 437 6032

RECRUITMENT

HOBStones

Mad March Temping!

Up to £10 per hour

Every year during March, the Hobstones Temp Team has a mad rush of bookings to cover late winter holidays and early Spring breaks! To help us meet this demand and to prepare for a busy Summer of temping, join the team without delay. If you have 50 wpm typing, good Windows knowledge and ideally Spreadsheets/DTP too, we would love to hear from you NOW.

City Consultants:
(Lisa, Victoria and Gillian)
0171 550 7000
West End Consultants:
(Liz and Holly)
0171 437 6032

RECRUITMENT

REED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

PA TO DIRECTOR

Polished, pro-active PA for the Director of this lively insurance company. An intuitive, flexible individual is sought with three years' senior level experience, W4W and spreadsheet skills. A second language would be desirable.

£24,000

For Executive Secretarial Positions In The West End, Tel: 0171 224 2820

REED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

PA TO MD

Top calibre PA experienced at board level to build a close professional relationship with the MD of this multi-national firm, organising diary, business trips and meetings. 100wpm shorthand and accurate typing skills essential.

£22,000 + Car

For Executive Secretarial Positions In Surrey, Tel: 01932 231414

REED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

SENIOR SECRETARY

Professional secretary with two years' experience and a good level of education sought for a prestigious insurance company. Excellent typing and organisational skills required for this busy and varied role, providing full secretarial support to two managers.

£20,000

For Executive Secretarial Positions In The City, Tel: 0171 638 1666

Corporate Investments

£19,000 – Mayfair

Exceptionally prestigious company seeks well educated, career focused PA. Strong skills (inc. Word + Powerpoint) essential.

High Quality Property **£14,000 – W1**

Exclusive estate agency seeks well-educated (A-level or Graduate) secretary. Gutsy, 'go-for-it' personality needed!

Get on THE real *fast* track...

Business Consultancy

£18,500 – SE1

Senior Partner needs sure-footed PA to organise hectic, business winning lifestyle. 70% admin role, min 60wpm typing essential.

International Brands **£17,000 – W6**

Top UK plc needs skilled secretaries and PAs for: personnel; finance; business planning. Good graphics package + min 50wpm.

Environmental Resources

£18,000 – Hammersmith

Hugely successful global business seeks bright Sec/PA to work at Director level. Word/Excel needed. Shorthand useful (own use).

We are presently swamped with opportunities for skilled secretaries and PAs! Please call 0171-494 4466 today – or fax 0171-494 4499.

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An Invitation

To Legal Secretaries
To Attend our
Open Afternoon

Today

Wednesday 5th March
from 12.00 noon to 7.00pm

If you are considering a legal career move then come along and meet us today! Join our experienced consultants for an informal and *confidential chat and a chance to discuss our* large number of current job opportunities for both *permanent and temporary legal secretaries*

We look forward to seeing you at:
5 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SP
Tel: 0171 550 7000
Kim Harris · Angela d'Agostino
⊖ Bank or Mansion House

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Tel: 0171 680 6806
Fax: 0171 782 7586
Language Opportunities

Multilingual Crème

FRENCH bil sec to Mgr. 6mth sec exp will secure great 1-1 role in manuf co. £15-16K. Language Matters 0171 930 1811.

ABROAD! Brussels or Coppenhagen awaits Fre bil secs (Eng MT). To £20K equiv. LM Agy 0171 930 1811.

MISON RECRUITMENT

SECRETARIES IN BANKING
CITY & DOCKLANDS
£12,000 to £25,000+++

Our prestigious Clients, including London's leading International Banks, require first class MULTILINGUAL team secretaries with relevant City/financial/legal experience at junior, intermediate and senior Director level. A' level educated, with proven secretarial ability and IT flair (MSWFW/ EXCEL/POWERPOINT), confident, dynamic and flexible. Genuine long-term prospects. Incredibly generous salaries with full Banking benefits including housing allowances and usually paid overtime. FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN or any other EASTERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES ideal. Areas include CORPORATE FINANCE, TRADING and ADMINISTRATION.

PLEASE CONTACT Monica Freudenheim
Tel 0171-583-5441 Fax 0171-583-3133

Euro London Appointments

Czech Speaking Secretary – £22K + Bank Bens

An excellent opportunity has arisen for a highly skilled Secretary to work within European Research at this City Bank. You'll need to be numerate, a good team player and have relevant London experience. Immediate start!

German Secretary/Investment Banking c£19,500 + Bank Bens

A superb opportunity awaits a lively, team-orientated secretary with excellent skills to work in this prestigious City Bank. Previous team experience essential. W4W, Powerpoint, Excel.

Fluent French PA – Banking – £19K + Bens

If you are well organised, outgoing with excellent interpersonal skills and a financial background, then this challenging position in the rapidly expanding area of equities finance could be for you. 60wpm typing. W4W/Powerpoint.

Fluent Dutch Secretary – £20K – City

Unusual position with international legal practice working for Senior Partner with Dutch interests. You will be a self starter able to work on your own initiative and juggle a varied and always interesting workload. Minimum 65wpm typing. W4W.

French m/t Translator – £Exc + Bank Bens

To succeed in this dynamic financial environment, you will be an experienced Technical Translator with DTP/Typesetting skills. Equities/Research background ideal. Pagemaker advantage.

Tel: 0171 583 0180 Fax: 0171 353 9849
HARE PLACE, 47 FLEET STREET, LONDON EC4Y 1BJ

PORTUGUESE sec for intl org. Gd WP/typ skills. Immed start. £20K+LM Agy 0171 930 1811.

FRENCH bil PA sec to 3 Execs of leisure co. Travel/diaries & handle own admin projects. Eng MT. (+ 3 sim posts in intl banks) £18K + bens. Language Matters Agy 0171 930 1811.

BI-LINGUAL PA £20,000 to £24,000 required for this International Company based in North London. Working for the Global Sales Director you will be fluent in 2 of the following languages, French, Spanish or German and have good experience at Senior PA level. To find out more please call Caroline at Adecco Elite (Rec Cons) on 0171 499 5881.

ITALIAN & Spanish: Trilingual PA/Secretary with shorthand. £22K plus & banking pkge. Multilingual Services rec cons 0171 930 4880.

CZECH Speaker (to £20,000) required by Bank, for busy secretarial/admin role based in Research/Trading. W4W and Excel. Call Sarah Turnbull on 0171 588 8999 (Rec Cons) Aldrich & Co.

DUTCH ACCOUNT MANAGER
c£27000 p.a.

Major career move for dynamic sales/marketing specialist with Dutch.

ANDERSON BILINGUAL
0181 763 9303 (24hr.)

SPANISH SPEAKING PA
to £16,000

Flexible, hands-on PA sought by small Trading Co in West End to support Chief Executive and assist with general office administration. Varied role requiring good typing. WP skills and rusty shorthand. Minimum one years' experience. Age 23+.

The Language Business
Tel: 0171-379 3189.
Fax: 0171-379 0624.

Frankfurt Based PA
£25K v.neg + bonus
+ relocation costs

Excellent opportunity for a confident proactive PA to utilise their initiative, charm and fluent German assisting a small team of dynamic Directors at this major international organisation. Powerpoint, W4W, 55 wpm essential. Initial interviews in London.

Changes Recruitment,
14 South Molton Street,
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0171 491 1255

PARIS - T.M. International has opportunities for Eng MT bilingual secs: 1) US Manufacturing Group seeks high calibre PA 220KF. 2) Medical Co. seeks jun sec. 156KF 3) Several posts in law firms for secs at all levels. Fax your CV today on 00331.47.42.18.87

BILINGUAL French PA/Sec for Euro Purchasing Dir of major consumer goods group. Communicate with o/seas depts, org travel/diary. Strong org skills ess tol run office in boss's absence. Lots of presentations so good IT skills. £20K+Excl bens 0171 287 0424 LRS (agy).

GERMAN/FRENCH bil PA to MD of manuf co. Client liaison role for exp snr sec in West London. Typ/PC. £18-20K. Language Matters Agy 0171 930 1811.

BILINGUAL German sec for Marketing Div of major bank. Varied role requiring initiative & sound skills/exp. Organise euro seminars, conference, travel, some translations. £23K+bens 0171 287 0424 LRS (AGY).

SPANISH bil sec for prest City finance co. Involved 1-1 role for snr exec with top org skills. Typ/PC. £19k + bb. Language Matters Agy 0171 930 1811.

PA/ADMIN £19,500 FRENCH Full P/A Admin. duties for renowned international company W1. Fluent French. English M/T standard. 80wpm shorthand essential. Call: James on 0171 734 4469 Agy.

ENTHUSIASTIC

Second jobber with German/French to work as receptionist/office junior in a busy structural engineering practice. Plenty of scope to use your initiative and learn new skills. Typing 50wpm and some knowledge of MS Office.

Please send a CV to Anne Taylor, Atelier One, 1-5 Maple Place, London W1P 5FX. Fax 0171 636 5282.

No telephone enquiries. Only successful applicants can expect to hear back from us.

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Leading lang agy req Rec Consultant to manage own client base but work as part of a successful team. Sales b'ground & Euro lang pref. Excl support/training in IIP accredited co. Excl basic c£35K OTE.

Call/Fax in CONFIDENCE to Christine Proctor.

0171 930 1811

LANGUAGE MATTERS

ADMINISTRATIVE CREME

ADMINISTRATOR - Recruitment c15k this high profile executive recruitment group based in WC1 requires a young, confident, organised and ambitious individual with excellent secretarial skills. Supporting a team of professional,dynamic head-hunters, the position offers a challenging and rewarding role with excellent career prospects. New graduates considered. Please call Sharon Reid on 0171 242 9000.

ADMINISTRATOR £15k + PRP + Bens. 3 days based in London/ 2 days Birmingham. Lotus Notes ess. 0171 494 4020 WF Agy.

BUSINESS RESEARCHER to £18,000, W1 for multi-interest business where sound analysis and writing skills, some work experience, a good degree & a strong out-going personality combined with very smart presentation are all essential. Fax CV ASAP to 0171 287 3717. Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd.

IT CO-ORD £16.5k + PRP + BENS 60% admin 40% Sec lge blue chip co. Exc IT skills ess. Call 0171 494 4020 WF Agy.

OFFICE JUNIOR
to £12,000

Superb opportunity for young person to secure first office position. Must be well presented, confident and willing to undertake varied office tasks, including clients hospitality, stationery management, fax,ing etc. Must have helpful disposition. Basic IT skills an advantage.

Tel 0171 377 6777
Fax 0171 377 5079
MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

OFFICE ASSISTANT
to £16,000 + exc bens

Capable 2nd jobber req for City co. close to Liverpool St. Must be friendly, well presented, with excellent skills. Duties to inc supporting office manager, assisting with office moves, travel arrangements, personnel issues and secretarial support. Must be IT literate with 50wpm min.

Tel 0171 377 6777
Fax 0171 377 5079
MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

ADMINISTRATOR
to £15,000

Rare opportunity for a young, experienced administrator to join a project team working in London and Birmingham. Must be free to travel, have excellent organisational skills and be of graduate calibre. Should be involved in everything and prepared for anything! Lotus Smartsuite and touch typing highly desirable.

Tel 0171 377 6777
Fax 0171 377 5079
MIDDLETON JEFFERS
RECRUITMENT LIMITED

FIRST CREME

GRADUATES £13-16k. Various positions must have good comm & IT skills, be well spoken & have commitment. Call 0171 494 4020 WF Agy.

FIRST CREME

AN office junior to £12,000. Secure your first office post. Suit young college/ school leaver with IT skills and pleasant personality. Call Middleton Jeffers Rec cons 0171 377 6777 fax 377 5079.

BOND STREET W.1. TO £14000. Delightful firm of international surveyors need a young secretary to join their cheerful team. You'll have a great time here if you're well-educated, enjoy audio typing and can spell! Age 19+. JIGSAW RECRUITMENT 0171 373 7779

PUBLIC RELATIONS EC1. to £15500. Wonderful opportunity to progress in a sociable financial PR company. As a team secretary, you'll be organising client events, & entertainment, photo shoots and research. 30% typing - fast WP essential. JIGSAW RECRUITMENT 0171 373 7779

Property Plus!
C£13,000 p.a.
+ Bens

This small up-market investment co., based in Mayfair need a fun loving, down-to-earth first jobber. Using your initiative, common sense and good secretarial skills, you'll be the lynch pin! If you're willing to learn there's the opportunity to progress. Knlge of W4W and Excel, typing 45+wpm.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

BANKING

CORPORATE LAW SECRETARIES
£20-£24,000 + PRP + Perks

Our clients include small West End practices to a mid sized firm based in Fleet Street to a very progressive firm in WC1. They are currently recruiting corporate law secretaries at all levels "who can think on their feet", have excellent secretarial skills with either Word for Windows or WordPerfect 5.1. You will be smart and well spoken coupled with a friendly outgoing personality. If this sounds like you and you would like more information then please call.

CAREER GROUP
26 Market Place
London W1N 7AL
Telephone 0171 470 7050

SUPER SECRETARIES

AD AGENCY MKTG SEC £18K + BENS + PROSPECTS Brill opp for switched on Sec with Powerpoint/MSW4W wkg for a busy team, 6 mths exp min. Call 0171 494 4020 WF Agy.

ADMIN PA. £20K + Exc Bens. 2 mins W. Hampstead tube/train. Top Int'l Co. 80% admin includ. HR/project work. Exc. career role. 60wpm copy/ Windows/ Excel + 2yrs exp ess. Finance exp + rusty SH/speedwriting an adv not ess. Amanda, NEXT EMP. 0171 287 3665.

FIRST CREME

1ST/2ND JOBBERS
HR SEC - FASHION CO
JUNIOR PA - ACCOUNTANTS
c£15,000 p.a. + bens

Well spoken, immaculately presented young secs req for Fashion Co. Oxford Circus and Accountants. Baker Street. Must have 50+wpm typ. Age 20-25.

Call Wendy URGENTLY on 0171 420 5008 (Fax 0171 420 8044)

LA CREME RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
TELEPHONE 0171 420 5008

SUPER SECRETARIES

ADMINISTRATOR, with great organisational skills & 40wpm needed for international designers in W4. Age: 25-50's. 0171 493 7001, SECRETARIES PLUS, the secretarial consultants.

A finance sec to £20,000 for City. Long hours, but rewards to suit. Duties to include travel arrangements, presentations, ad hoc projects in addition to sec support, W4W, Excel and 55wpm min. Call Middleton Jeffers Rec Cons 0171 377 6777 fax 377 5079.

A1 PA - Bucks. For busy MD. MS Office, S/H, 3 years + exp - £18K. 01494 433346(Agy)

A PA/Sec to Partner £18K +. Int'l Finance Hs. Rusty SH, Age 35yrs+. 0181 209 1858 Agy.

AUDIO PA c£19,000 + Bonus, W1 for super boss at upmarket Property Co. Suit outgoing 'country loving' PA with W4W/Powerpoint + basic Excel, min 60 wpm. Call 0171 287 2044/fax 287 3717. Middleton Jeffers Rec Ltd.

£25,000 + banking benefits. The G.M. of a Securities House needs an executive assistant to look after him. You will compose his correspondence, organise his diary and be totally responsible for helping him with his work. A responsible role that will suit a dedicated PA who enjoys pampering their boss. Please fax CV's 0171 734 4905 Sarah Stewart-Smith Rec 0171 734 5955.

£23,000 + Benefits. Legal secretary for dynamic young legal counsel within major City brokers. This is a demanding role which will involve a combination of secretarial support, administration & departmental management. Knowledge of French or German useful. 70 typing The Recruitment Company 0171 831 1220.

HIGH SOCIETY
TO £25,000

Have you a sense of fun & a spirit of adventure? Superb opportunity for a polished & socially aware PA to work for amusing, flexible lady. Your day will be exciting & involved liaising with interior designers & charities, co-ordinating three residences & ensuring the smooth day to day running of this high profile person. S/H min 80wpm age late 20's - 40's.

N.S.R.LTD:
0171 222 5091

BELGRAVIA Property Co needs PA for MD. £21,000. Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323.

£23,000 + bens, PA to Marketing Director of International Co. He needs someone who has strong, confident, with good communication, organisational & secretarial skills to run his life; travel, diary, presentations, project work, participation in meetings. A mature approach is needed as is the flexibility to work 3 days near Heathrow and 2 days in Mayfair. Call Brindley-Clark Assoc 0171-734 9821.

£20-23,000+bens, PA to work for top Executive Search Company in Mayfair. A busy, involving role supporting 2 consultants; diaries, setting up interviews & meetings, travel, presentations, project work, daily client, candidate & inter-office liaison. Good typing, W4W's & pref. PowerPoint, call Brindley-Clark Assoc. 0171-734 9821.

CHAIRMAN'S PA in Chelsea. This high profile group chairman requires an experienced PA to assist in the co-ordination of his business and personal life. A high degree of confidentiality and commitment are a must together with top skills to work for this charming man. 4 days a week, age 40+, salary £17-19K aae. Call Anderson Hoare (Rec Cons) 0171-824-8821.

EXEC. Secretary/Research Asst. c£19,500. International Publishing plc. seeks team spirited organised graduate secretary for their charming Strategic Planning Director. Lots of variety promised as well as some involvement with research projects 60 wpm audio + W4W V6 essential + Powerpoint + Excel pref. Call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

SPREAD YOURS WINGS - ITS TIME TO FLY!
C.£18.000

Calling all young would-be office managers with PA/Sec exp. This is your chance to carve a niche & quickly become indispensable in a very successful & fast expanding T V production company. We are looking for an organiser 'extraordinaire' to co-ordinate this lively office. Gd tel manner. W4W & typ 55wpm. Suit car driver age 25 - 32 yrs.

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EXHIBITIONS-Sal to £17,000 This Co that organises a world famous event is looking for someone with good typing & org skills. The position offers true scope & involvement & deals with an interesting subject. Good working environment & fun people. Age 19-25. Anderson Hoare (Rec Cons) 0171-824-8821.

FASHION Co needs dynamic PA to back up Directors and supervise own assistant. £22,000. Age 28-40. Directors' Secretaries. 0171 629 9323.

FULHAM C£18,000+ bens + staff discounts. Exciting opportunities in Head Office of fashion/furnishings design house. Background in creative/advertising/finance depts relevant. 55+wpm typing. W4W/AmiPro, shorthand preffered. Call 0171 287 2044/fax 287 3717 Middleton Jeffers Rec Cons Ltd

GRADUATE £17,000 High profile charity dealing with politicians and social trendsetters offer involved role including research. 50wpm typing. Shorthand useful. MS Office. Please telephone 0171 495 2321 - Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment.

HEATHROW £20,000+. Experienced PA/Secretary required for MD of an expanding fashion company This busy, varied role would suit a bright, confident, proactive person who enjoys making full use of their secretarial, administration & communication skills. Responsibilities will include acting as point of contact for clients & handling all aspects of daily office management. Skills 100/60. 0171 831 1220. The Recruitment Company

INTERNATIONAL co to £19,500 + free lunch + gym membership. PR & Investor Relations Manager seeks proactive secretary with masses of involvement and minimal secretarial promised! City knowledge and good organiser pref. 56 wpm typing, shorthand & audio useful. Windows essential. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

LEISURE to £18,000 aae. As Operations Secretary in this fast moving, fast expanding plc, your computer literacy/DTP skills will be fully utilised. Would suit organised teamplayer who enjoys admin & variety and lots of involvement. 50 wpm audio typing, MS Office + QuarkXpress pref. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

4-6 month contract, maternity cover, W1 c£22,000+ aae - see Tempting Times.

NEW POSITION - PA £17-20K - relaxed, friendly Co need organised PA to set up office systems and look after 2 Directors. Reg hours, team player, must be able to take minutes. 0171 499 6566 Grosvenor Bureau.

PARIS - PA with French needed by General Manager of international co near Paris. Directors' Secretaries 0171 629 9323.

PA /Team Sec £17,000 + prp + bonus ++. Run your own show working for this dynamic PR Co. You will utilise all your admin/orgs skills and have the ability to juggle projects. Duties include all press releases/ press packs/ research and lots of client contact exc sec skills age 24+, 60wpm/ 2 years exp. 0181 780 3378.

SEC. REC £15k + BENS. Mayfair estate agency. Must be well spoken & presented with MSW4W 50wpm typing. Call 0171 494 4020 WF Agy.

PA to Chairman - 24K. Financial PR Company require polished Senior PA with City exp. Call Cross Selection 0171 377 5500 Fax: 0171 377 5599.

PA to partner 20k + bens, for well known UK leading city co with exc. admin/ organisation skills, varied interesting role. Diamond Agy 0171 929 2977

PA (25-35yrs) for energetic MD based in Fulham. You must be articulate, calm and a good communicator with shorthand and enjoy a hectic challenging environment. Excellent prospects. c £21,000 p.a. + Bens T. J. & Co. 0171 838 0023 rec cons.

PERSONNEL Secretary £18,000+ for int'l management consultants. Might suit a bright second jobber with good admin skills. 55 wpm + WPerfect 6.1 experience essential. Call 0171 681 8600 Cook Dennehy (Agy)

PERSONNEL - 25K. 3/6 mnth contract. Must be IPD qual, or part qual. Wkg for high profile blue chip Plc. Call Cross Selection 0171 377 5500 Fax: 0171 377 5599.

PR, MARKETING, liaising with rich and famous clients of this large, prestigious intl Mayfair Co, Suit PA/Sec aged 22-27 to £20,000. Mainstream (Agy) tel 0171 495 1830.

PROPERTY PA'S £17-18k. Three positions available within two small (& highly successful) CO's who seek outgoing PA/Sec's with good admin skills. Assisting at Partner level, these are busy, involving roles and need fast Audio/WP skills. For full details call HODGE RECRUITMENT 0171 629 8863.

SECRETARY/PA required for London based International Yacht Brokers. General admin, maintain sales listings, telephone work, some audio typing, etc. Windows experience essential. CV and references to fax: 0171 376 7703.

SECRETARY An attractive, bright, computer literate secretary required for exceptionally busy Estate Agency in Maida Vale. A good telephone manner is essential together with W4W experience. Salary AAE. Tel Pembertons 0171 586 5999.

SHHD PA - MEDIA £18k Super opportunity for a dynamic confident PA to use excellent shhd skills. Support the MD of this Soho Ad. Agency; organise her travel and diary and handle business affairs in her absence. Great potential to progress in the role. Shhd 80 WPM and W4W needed. Call HODGE RECRUITMENT 0171 629 8863.

S/H PA/OFF MGR £21-22k. Upmarket property co W1, WP5.1 & supervisory exp ess. Call 0171 494 4020. WF Agy

SOCIAL PA - £18,000 Neg for business lady SW3, to organise the more personal & domestic side of her affairs. Qualities of discretion/tact essen. S/H or spdwriting & WP skills. Mrs Prosser 0171 259 6999 Beauchamp Bureau.

STUNNING Offices in SW1! Friendly firm of architects require sec'y/administrator to become one of the team in this chaotic but caring company. Are you on the ball with a good telephone manner & secretarial skills and do you like an arty environment? If so, this could be the perfect first job for you! Or maybe someone in 30's returning to work? W4W, 45 wpm, £11-13K. Anderson Hoare (Rec Cons) 0171 824 8821.

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SUPER SECRETARIES

TEAM Secretary - £20,000 + bens - lively young professional team offering total involvement for committed secretary. Ideally you should have approx. 3 years exp. in a professional company, some DTP skills and copy typing. Call Caroline 0171-499-5881 Adecco Elite (Rec. Cons).

TECHNICAL MARKETING EDITOR £18,500. Knightsbridge based US engineering company seeks proactive person with proven editing and proof reading skills within a scientific or technical environment. Would suit organised teamplayer with excellent writing ability. MS Office. Please call 0171 637 3212 Summers By Two Rec Cons.

WELL Known Charity seeks Sec/ Researcher to support & assist Director with various projects. Must have good secretarial skills (S.H. useful) + proven Research exp is essential. £17,000 Age 21-35 King & Toben Rec Cons 0171-629-9648

TEMPTING TIMES

£22,000+ aae. 4-6 month contract, maternity cover, W1 (Oxford Circus), 1-1 Entrepreneurial businessman. W/Windows, s'hand useful. Start asap. Call Sue Doughty (Agy) 0171 491 7911.

ITALIAN & /or Spanish - banking secretaries required for T-P positions. Up to £24K immediate start. Call Cross Selection 0171 377 5500 or fax CV on 0171 377 5599.

LEGAL Secretaries needed for bookings paying £12 per hour with bank holiday pay & bonuses. Please call Harriet or Yvonne at Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants on 0171 638 9991.

TEMPS NEEDED Urgent bkgs Snr PA's any WP exp receptionists with s/h exp. Call 0171 494 4020 WF Agy.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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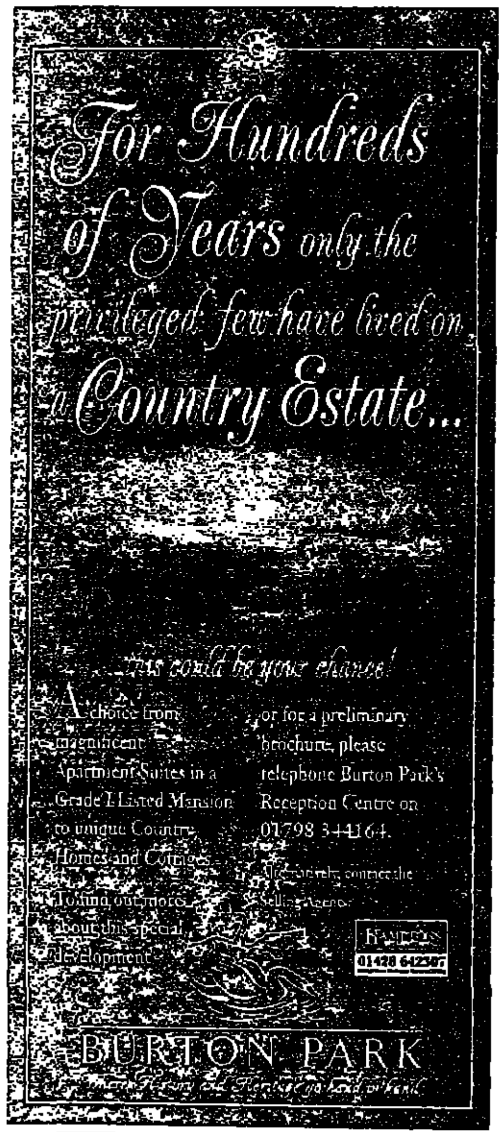
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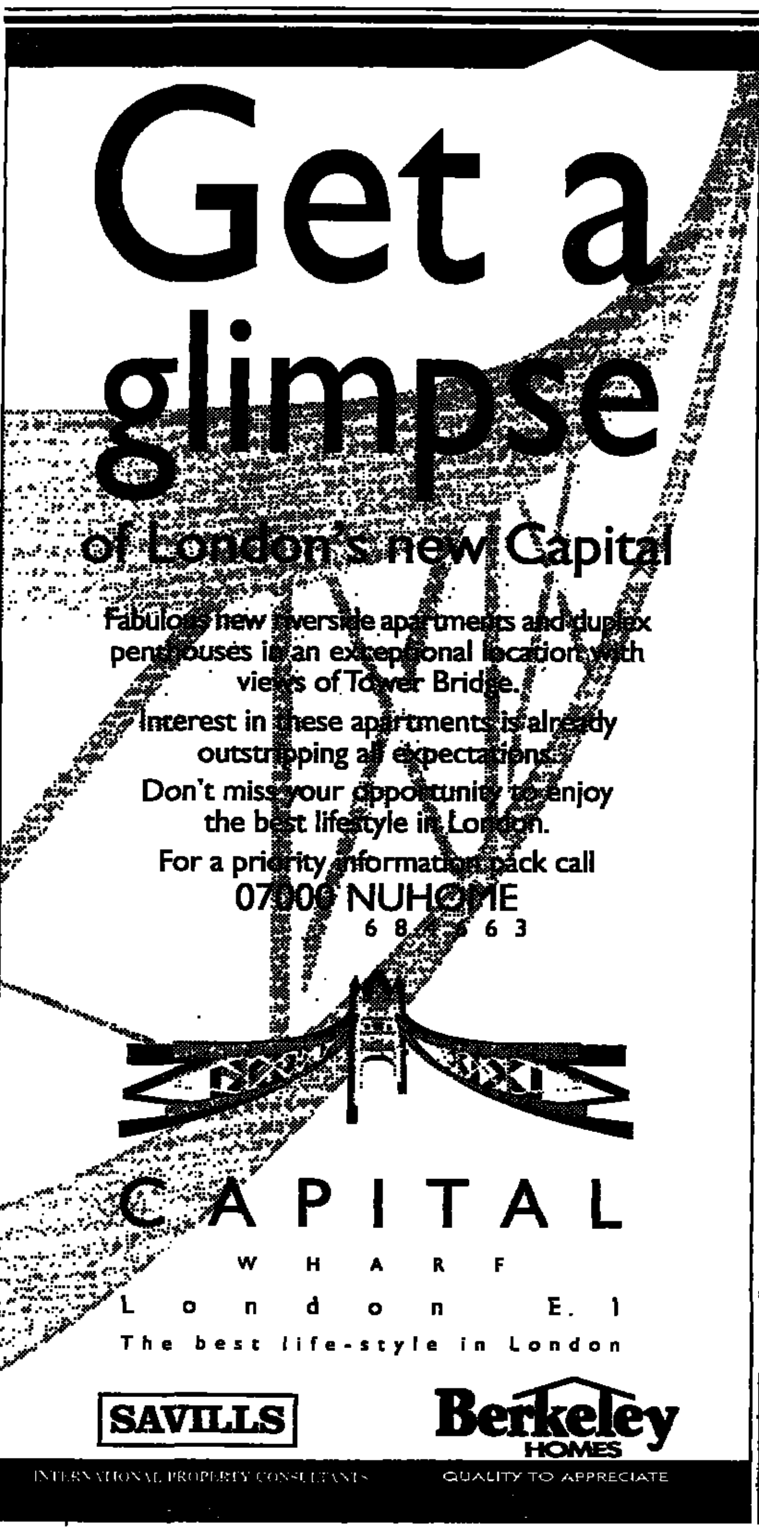
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BARBICAN/CITY Wide selection of flats from £725 pcm, min 6 months. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

BARBICAN EC2 Selection of 2/3 bed apts from £300pw Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

BELGRAVIA Lux unfurn hse 5 beds, study, recep, kit + b'fast rm, 6 baths £2500 pw. Tel: 0171 938 1088 Mallon Estates

BISHOPS AVE N2 Det house 5 bdrms, 2 baths, 4 rec, F/F kit. Unfurn, lge gdn, gge, Nr Tube £1150 pw. 0181 444 1166

BRAND NEW SE1 County Hall 2 bed flat, 2 bath with view, luxury furn, pking, gym, pool £350 pw. 0181 952 8911

BLOOMSBURY WC1 New refurb 2 bed in small PBB. Trendy SS kitchen. £365 pw. Huxford Salvi Carr 0171 250 1012

BELGRAVIA Immac studio. Kit din, wm, antiques etc. £225pw 0171 2599346/01284 789522

CADOGAN SQ 2 bed 2 bath flat 4th flr, lift, use gardens £675pw + 2 bed Close Harrods £450 pw DM 0171 225 3111

CHELSEA SW3. Lux interior design townhse in priv location off Kings Road, 2 dble beds, 2 bath rms, recep rm, kitc/diner, lge study, terrace & patio, own garage. £1200pw. Hogarth Estates 0171 373 9537.

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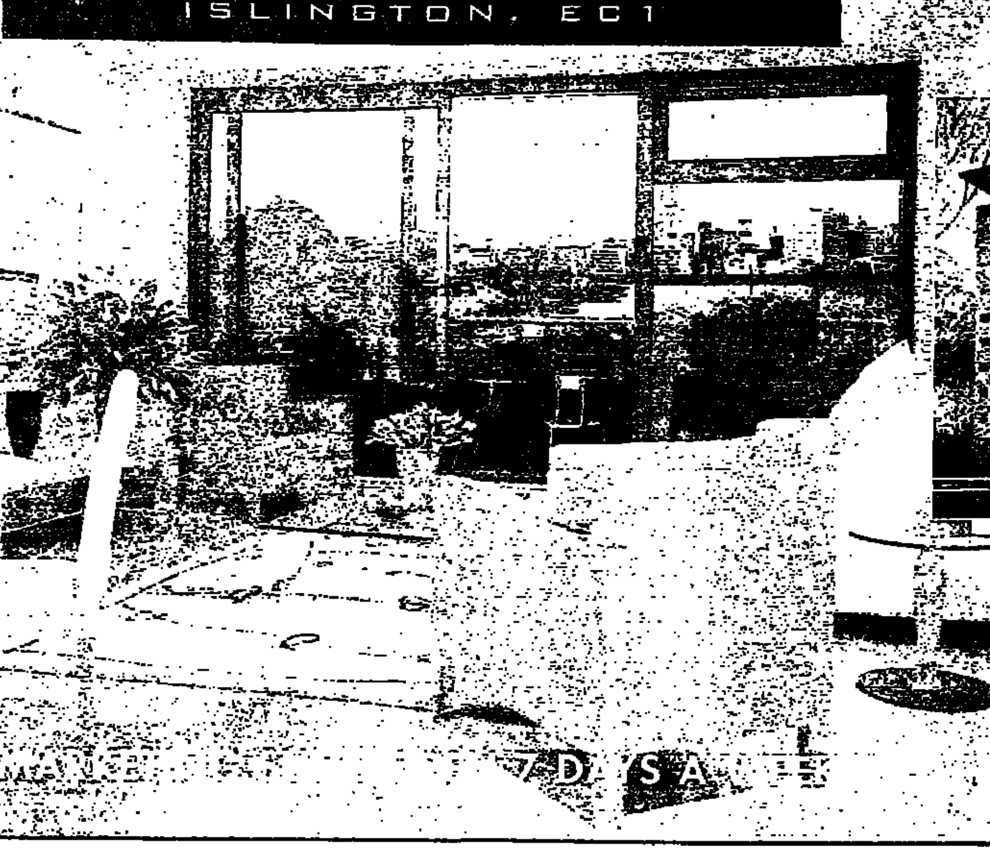
ISLINGTON, EC1



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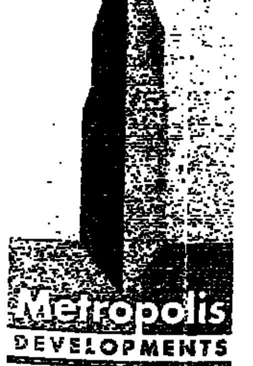

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PAUL BRICKNALL

Juliet Morris, left, presenter of *The House Detectives*, says: "History is not just on your doorstep — it is your doorstep." Bidston, centre, and Preston, right, are two of the locations visited by the time-detectives in the BBC2 series

History's coming home

Your home may have a remarkable history. Eve-Ann Prentice reports on an intriguing new television series

Madness, the Black Death and sexual intrigue are the foundation stones on which Anne and David Tombs's house is built. The tales of woe — which make the worst revealed by a local authority search seem trivial — were uncovered when the Tombses had the medieval building in Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester, investigated.

The family were puzzled because a local guidebook described their large home as a tithe barn, even though it appeared to have been constructed around two large open halls. Delving into the past proved daunting until the Tombses' case was taken up by a team of BBC architectural sleuths as part of a six-part television series. David Austin, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Wales, Lampeter, Mac Dowdy of Cambridge University, and Judith Miller, an interior design historian, have investigated six homes in Britain for the series, *The House Detectives*, which began on BBC2 last night.

The Tombses already knew their house, Abbots Lodge, had been home to local vicars from the early 1800s until the 1960s. The experts went on to prove that the family had been right to question its reputation as an old tithe barn.

In fact, a survey in 1288 by the Bishop of Hereford, known as the *Red Book*, showed that the Lodge had comprised two buildings erected side by side, one occupied by a vicar and the other by a deacon. Further research uncovered a fascinating glimpse of English religious life down the centuries, including details of the less salubrious aspects of some members of the priesthood who lived there.

Juliet Morris, who presents *The House Detectives*, says: "Watch the programmes and you'll be able to unlock the secrets of your own home. Ordinary houses reveal as much about British history and how people lived in the past as grand palaces and castles. The series proves that history is not just on your doorstep — it is your doorstep."

The six homes visited by the time-detectives are in Preston, Lancashire; Bidston Village, in The Wirral, Cheshire; Dunsby, Lincolnshire; Swanage, Dorset; Manningtree, Essex; and Ledbury. The team reveals concealed cellars, blocked-up smugglers' tunnels and a reputed ghost.

Mulberry Cottage in Swanage was thought by its owners to be Georgian, until the sleuths found evidence linking it to the Bronze Age. In Manningtree, two adjoining houses in the High Street were swathed in legends of smugglers, witchcraft and the Spanish Armada and the house detectives had the task of separating fact from fiction.

In Ledbury, the Tombses have been inspired to continue research into the lives of the vicars who once occupied their home.

The house detectives offer the following advice for anyone wanting to trace the history of their home:

- Visit your local records office and look at old maps to find out when the house was built and how the area has changed.
- View the property from outside and identify the general style, such as Georgian or Victorian.
- Chimneys are strong clues to the date and general history of a building.
- Compare the front with sides and back. If the style differs, there is a chance that it is an early house masked by later changes.
- Look at the general proportions of the rooms. Low ceilings, for example, can indicate medieval and Renaissance origins.
- Make a plan of the general layout — is it one, unified design or has it evolved?
- Look at doors and windows. Although these are sometimes changed or replaced, there are often tell-tale fragments from earlier features.
- When decorating or renovating, note earlier colour schemes and styles of plasterwork.
- Go to the attic and look at the roof. Many features, such as roof timbers, are likely to be original.

Matthew Bond, page 47

WIN A DETECTIVE GUIDE

READERS may have seen the feature in *Weekend* last Saturday on tracing a house's history. Now you can win a copy of the book, *Be Your Own House Detective*, to be published by BBC Books. It accompanies the series and shows how to gather details of your home's history, offering a step-by-step guide.

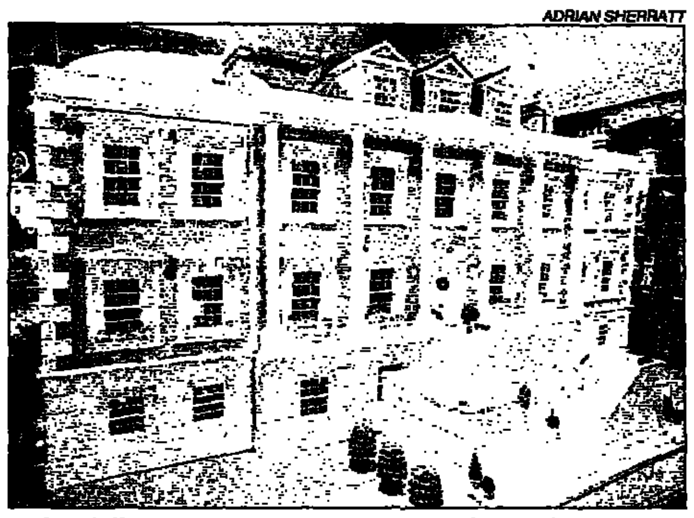
First, answer the following question (the answer is contained in the article above): Which six places in Britain do *The House Detectives* visit during the BBC2 series?

***Send answers on postcards to House Detective Offer, Midas Public* Relations, 7-8 Kendrick Mews, London SW7 3HG, to arrive by next Wednesday. The first 20 with the correct answer will receive the book, which goes on sale on March 20 at £16.99. Usual *Times* rules apply.**

Katherine Bergen reports on a real labour of love

Prisoner builds a £50,000 mansion

ADRIAN SHERRATT



The dolls' house, at the London Toy and Model Museum

Paul Wood built the house of his dreams while serving a four-year sentence for fraud in Verne prison, Portland, Dorset. He used his time to construct a 16-room Victorian dolls' house and 230 pieces of furniture, made from 25,000 pieces of wood. His tools were a broken hacksaw blade, a small knife and sandpaper.

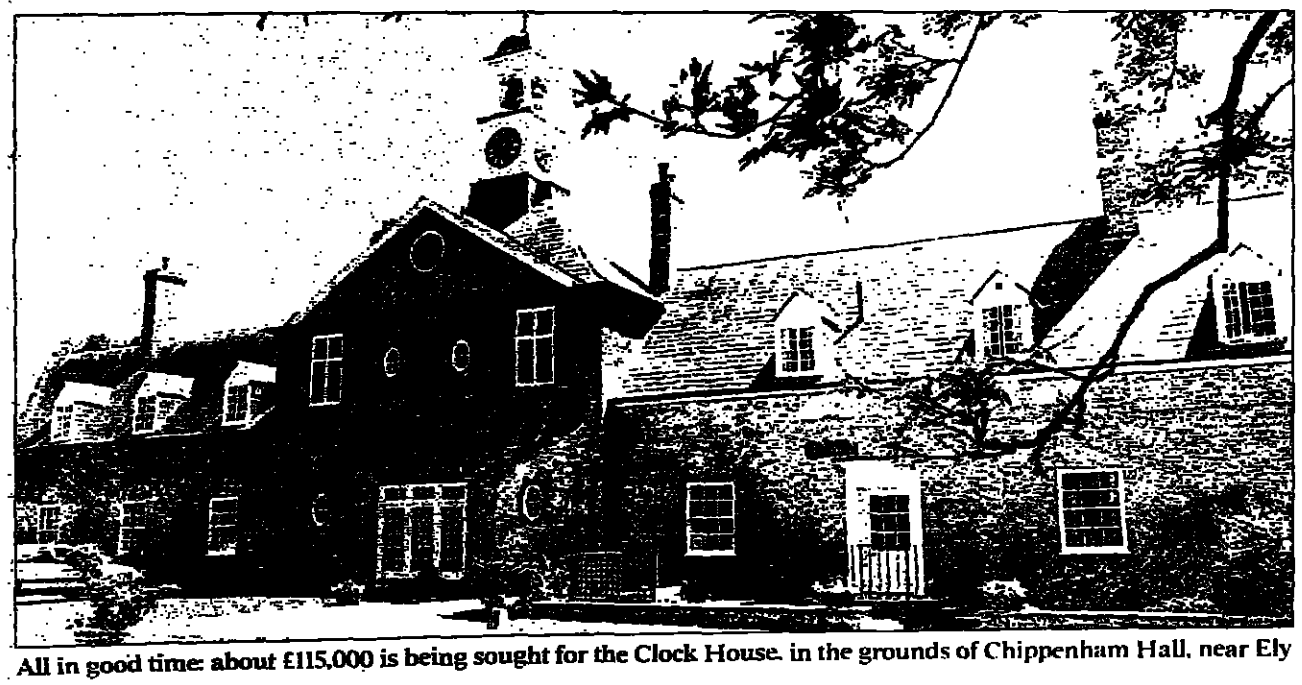
"I had been building model boats from kits," he says, "and after seeing a picture of Britannia House and other dolls' houses in a magazine, I set about designing what is now Barnard Hall."

The lavishly detailed house, which Mr Wood named after his girlfriend, took 5,000 hours to complete and has just gone on permanent display at the London Toy Museum. Mr Wood admits he took wood from the prison carpentry class and built the house secretly in his cell. "The main problem I had in the beginning was to obtain all the materials and hide them from the prison authorities due to the size of the project," he says. "I knew that otherwise I would not be allowed to build it as the rules state that no model larger than 18 by 12 inches can be made. Therefore, I designed it in four sections — the main section, two side sections and the steps assembly — each piece to be built separately."

Prison authorities eventually discovered the project, but allowed Mr Wood to continue so long as he paid for the wood. The model also survived vandalism by another prisoner and was completed in 1990.

The model is more than 3ft high and includes four bedrooms, a music room, drawing room, dining room, nursery, study, kitchen, pantry and servants' quarters. It features hinged shutters, roof tiles, hand-veneered floors, an elaborate 60-step staircase, panelling, marble fireplaces, a clay-tiled kitchen floor and 40 working lights. Experts say it is worth about £50,000. Mr Wood says the materials cost him £5,000. "But it gave me great pleasure in building, although at times I found it frustrating and never-ending," he says, "and a real sense of achievement when I finally completed it."

- *The London Toy and Model Museum, 21-23 Craven Hill, London W2 3EN; 0171-706 8000.*



All in good time: about £115,000 is being sought for the Clock House, in the grounds of Chippenham Hall, near Ely

It's perfect timing for somebody

CLOCK-WATCHER needed: maintenance charges at a home for sale in the grounds of Chippenham Hall, near Ely, Cambridgeshire are reduced by £4 a week, provided the owner undertakes clock-winding duty.

The Clock House is part of a listed converted 17th-century coach house and stable block while its reception room houses the clock's pendulum. The house has three bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, study area — and clock room.

About £115,000 is being sought for the property. For more information, phone James Bedford at Bedfords, 01284 769999.

KATYE BRYMACOMBE/GREENPEACE

Let the sun power it: Greenpeace's solar kitchen

IN THE MARKET

Sale of the century

■ A Cheshire woman has decided to move home — as she approaches her 100th birthday. Mary Nolan is selling her five-bedroom period home in Altrincham and intends buying a flat in the area. She wants to use the profit from the house sale to pay for someone to look after her. Mrs Nolan does not want to go into a home "because they're full of old people".

Information: Thornley Groves estate agents, 0161 941 4111.

Scotland prices up

■ House prices in Scotland increased by 3.8 per cent last year and now stand close to their peak levels of 1989, according to the Royal Bank of Scotland's housing index. The rise suggests that the housing market in Scotland has turned the corner since 1995, but lags behind the UK-wide increase of 8 per cent.

Scotland's failure to match the UK rise was because it escaped the worst of the UK's housing slump — and so had less lost ground to make up, the survey said.

Price rises were driven by the cities, the biggest increases being in Glasgow where prices rose 6 per cent to an average £53,875 during the year.

Edinburgh recorded a 1.6 per cent rise to £71,148, while in Aberdeen, prices increased by 2.1 per cent to an average of £65,428

But in Dundee, prices fell by 2 per cent in 1996 to an average of £46,969.

Tenants trapped

■ Men who live in council or housing association properties are increasingly being caught in a poverty trap because of low pay and high rents, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Because people lose benefits when they find a job, most unemployed "social tenants" would effectively keep less than £4 of every £10 they earned in work, the institute says in a report issued last week. Rents had doubled in the past decade while half of male tenants in work earned less than £6 an hour.

"Increasing numbers of tenants in subsidised housing have been caught in a poverty trap, caused by a combination of low wages and rising rents," the report says.

A show for the buyer

FOR ANYONE contemplating moving house this year, the Homebuyer Show at London Olympia could be the place to visit this weekend. Housebuilders, estate agents, building societies, banks and solicitors will be there to advise. Free seminars include one on "shared ownership explained", which will outline the benefits of buying part-rent, part-buy at a subsidised rate.

New homes by developers, including Barratt, Bryant and Alfred McAlpine, and studio flats, loft conversions and riverside warehouses, will be for sale.

A Greenpeace solar electric kitchen will be washing clothes, cooking meals and making tea.

Admission is free and visitors will be given a comprehensive property guide. The show is open this Friday from 11am to 7pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm. The nearest Tube station is Olympia and there are several car parks near by.

- *Homebuyer Show Hotline, 0990 111800.*

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

FREE previews of *The English Patient*

Love discovered and betrayed: clockwise from top, Juliette Binoche; Ralph Fiennes; and Fiennes in a romantic embrace with Kristin Scott Thomas

Readers of *The Times* can get the hottest cinema ticket of the year FREE and enjoy a private screening of *The English Patient*, starring Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas.

We have a total of 25,000 tickets to give away for the exclusive screenings on Saturday, March 8 — the week before it opens in the UK. And there are 115 cinemas nationwide to choose from.

Nominated for 12 Oscars, the film is directed and scripted by Anthony Minghella (who also directed *Truly, Madly, Deeply*) and is distributed by Buena Vista. Based on the novel by Michael Ondaatje which won the Booker Prize in 1992, *The English Patient* is an epic film of adventure, intrigue, betrayal and love about four strangers whose diverse lives become inextricably connected.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE TICKET

Collect the four FREE preview tokens published this week and attach them to the voucher which will appear tomorrow. Present them at one of the cinemas (listed in Monday's newspaper) between 5pm Thursday, March 6 and the close of business on Friday, March 7. Each voucher, with four tokens attached, entitles you to one FREE ticket. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The preview is at approx 3pm on Saturday.

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CITY Choice Lux lge new 2 bed 2 bth FF pkg Nr Tube £360-£420 pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

CITY / EC1 Immac FF 1 bed flat, F/Fit kit, Nr Tube, Porter, pkg. £260 pw. 0171 379 4816

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COVENT GARDEN Immaculate 1 bedroom flat f/furn, Near Piazza & tube, porter, wooden floors. £325pw 0171 379 4816

COVENT GDN V.Spac. 2 bed flat, new dec, f/fit kit, Unfurn, Nr Tube. £380 pw. 0171 379 4816

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HAMPSTEAD GARDEN Suburbs Superb 6 bed house, 3 recs, 2 baths, kit/diner, new refurb throughout. Dbl gge. All amenities inc alarm. Unfurnished. Must view. £1250pw Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

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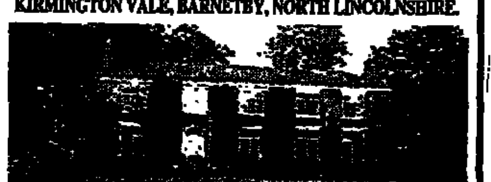

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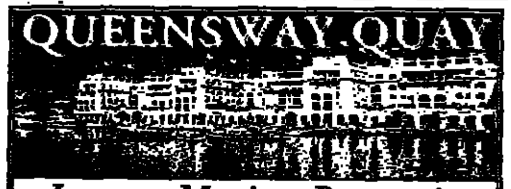

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هكذا من الاصل

Andrew Longmore meets a jockey keen to emulate his father's Cheltenham exploits

Family ties bind Carberry to Festival

Carberry collects his saddle from the weighing room before riding a double at Kelso yesterday. Photograph: Paul Clements

The name of Carberry needs little introduction to the Cheltenham Festival. Not, at least, to anyone whose pockets were consistently picked by one of the deadliest combinations in the trade two decades and more ago.

On those March days when the Irish seemed to bring the worst of their weather across the sea along with the best of their horseflesh, Dan Moore and Tommy Carberry formed a partnership as competitive and successful as any in the history of Prestbury Park. Or Aintree, for that matter.

Carberry rode four Gold Cup winners, though only three — Ten Up and L'Escargot (twice) — appear in the record books. On a poignant afternoon 17 years ago, the 12-year-old Tied Cottage ploughed up the Cheltenham hill to give Dan his fifteenth and last Festival winner. His wife, Joan, was in charge that day because, as the world of racing well knew, Dan Moore was in the grip of a terminal illness. Within months, he had died and Tied Cottage had forfeited the race after a positive drug test. "We won it though," Tommy Carberry maintains to this day.

Yet Irish racing dynasties are not so easily crushed. A generation on, Paul Carberry will grace the Gloucestershire hills next week with a handful of promising rides.

Paul Carberry, 23, has a long road ahead to emulate the feats of his father and he is acutely conscious, almost embarrassed, by the constant reminders of his pedigree. He is, he says in the way of famous sporting sons, Paul not Tommy Carberry and he will do it his way.

"It's certainly been a help having the name of Carberry, but a lot of people have said 'hey, if you're half as good as your father, you'll be okay', and I let it go straight through me. He hasn't tried to influence me, he's left me to learn the hard way."

Paul has managed to equal one record already. With the gloom fast closing on a miserable second day for the Irish in 1993, a horse called Rhythm Section burst away from the Guinness Festival Bumper field to bring renewed glory to a familiar name. Like his father, Paul won on his first ride at Cheltenham, albeit on the flat. The only difference was the style of the man on board.

While Tommy was brought up in the more traditional way of the Irish horseman, with a deep seat and long reins, Paul rides as short as many Flat jockeys. Too short for his father's liking. "I was riding on the Flat at Dundalk one time and he said my backside was a bit high," Paul said.

"But that's just the way I do it, always have. I get a better feel of a horse up there. If I rode long, I'd feel awkward and I don't fall off many."

On the farm outside Dublin where he was brought up, there was little choice of sport. If walking was second nature, riding was a short-head third. Carberry was on his first pony at the age of three; riding the Grand National round the paddock by eight or nine. Not even an accident to his brother Thomas, who was knocked unconscious by a fall and suffered periodic fits afterwards, prevented Paul from pursuing his unspoken ambition. No real decision was ever made. You either rode, like Paul, or you left, like his other brother, Mark, who works as a builder in the United States.

The Irish telegraph was soon humming with news of a bright talent with a familiar name. Under the guidance of Noel Meade, Carberry became champion apprentice in Ireland before taking up the prestigious post of retained jockey to Robert Ogden, one of the most powerful owners in the north of England.

A broken arm put him out for three months at the start of this season, but 37 winners, including a double at Kelso yesterday, for a variety of masters and his strong hand of rides next week — General Command, Alzulu and Squire Silk, along with Cockney Lad in the Champion Hurdle and Addington Boy in the Gold Cup — confirm his growing reputation as a fearless horseman. "He has a superb sense of pace, a fine racing brain and tremendous courage," Meade said.

Back home, father Tommy will watch with pride if the family name returns to its rightful place in the winner's enclosure and, very probably, shake his head in dismay at the unorthodox style. The rest of us will just have to prepare ourselves for another decade or so of Carberry mayhem.

Jockey Club leads call for rethink on prize funding

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

A RADICAL rethink in the way £30 million of prize-money is allocated annually to Britain's 59 racecourses is being demanded by the Jockey Club and the Racehorse Owners' Association (ROA).

In separate submissions to the British Horseracing Board (BHB), the two organisations have argued that distribution of the Levy Board funding should be linked far more closely to the performance of individual tracks in contributing towards race purses.

Courses which are successful in raising money via sponsors or contribute towards prize-money from their own coffers should be rewarded with more levy finance — and those who fail should receive far less. The demand reflects a growing irritation that some courses do little to attract extra cash — and just rely on levy finance to keep them in profit.

Christopher Foster, executive director of the Jockey Club, said yesterday: "Our feeling, which is shared by others, is that the present system of producing prize-money doesn't really give racecourses any incentive to put up more money.

"If the Levy Board is going to be restrained over the next few years in how much it can find for prize-money, there is a need to stimulate other contributors to prize-money, and that primarily means racecourses and sponsors.

"We believe that the Levy Board scheme should be reordered to give racecourses much greater incentive to go out and seek sponsorship or put up their own money. There should be some variation of 'matching funds' with racecourses rewarded for the amount they put up."

The Jockey Club stance is significant because its wholly-owned subsidiary, Racecourse Holdings Trust, owns and runs a dozen courses, ranging from Cheltenham and Epsom to Market Rasen and Warwick.

The Levy Board is reviewing an existing merit table system which influences, to a limited extent, how much cash different courses receive.

John Paxman, director general of the ROA, said: "Owners feel racecourses, who have received a great deal of financial help from the Levy Board and the BHB through the customer-friendly fixture list, have not put sufficient back into racing in the form of prize-money — particularly with regard to Sunday racing."

The submissions from the two organisations are in response to the BHB's review of racing. It is likely their sentiments will find favour with a majority of BHB members — and could take British racing a step closer to a two-tier sport.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

2.10 **MORPHEUS (nap)**
2.40 True Fortune
3.10 Indian Jockey
3.40 Ramsdens
4.10 Cariboo Gold
4.40 Lough Tully

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.40 LOUGH TULLY.

Carl Evans: 2.40 Cape Cottage.

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GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.10 CHIRK NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,379: 2m 1f) (14 runners)

101	1-32231	DARAKSHAN 26 (CD,F,G) (M Ward) Miss H Knight 5-11-8	J Culloty	98
102		A BOY CALLED ROSIE (Ms J Palmer) J O'Shea 6-11-2	Michael Brennan (3)	–
103		ALTHREY MIST (F Lloyd) F Lloyd 5-11-2	S McNeill	–
104	0-0	GAF 95 (G Farndon) B Cambidge 5-11-2	Gary Lyons	–
105	520-000	HILLS GAMBLE 26 (J Hill) P Bevan 7-11-2	W Worthington	86
106		MICKLEOVER (D McCain) D McCain 7-11-2	D Walsh	–
107	045003	MORPHEUS 15 (F) (Mrs M Pearce) D Nicholson 5-11-2	R Johnson	[illegible]
108	P	PALARICO 11 (Mrs J Webber) P Webber 7-11-2	A Thornton	–
109	320	ZANDER 42 (Mrs K Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2	C Llewellyn	–
110		FLUTTERBUD (B Eckley) B Eckley 5-10-11	J R Kavanagh	–
111	500-00-	GUNNY'S GIRL 508 (Mrs Rick Gun Vic) F Jordan 6-10-11	R Farrant	–
112	05-0	VITA NUOVA 48 (W Jenks) W Jenks 6-10-11	D Bridgwater	–
113	6P0	WORTH THE BILL 43 (J Walford) F Jordan 4-10-6	D Byrne	–
114	00	SAUCY DANCER 47 (G Tuck) J Tuck 4-10-2	S McNeill	–

BETTING: 7-4 Darakshan, 5-2 Morpheus, 9-1 Zander, 10-1 Hills Gamble, 14-1 Althrey Mist, 16-1 others

1996: JOCKS CROSS 5-11-5 B Harding (11-10 fav) G Richards 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

DARAKSHAN beat Gods Squad 2l in 12-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good). HILLS GAMBLE 25l 7th of 11 to Scendid in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). MORPHEUS about 19l 3rd of 13 to Mr Cheeky Man in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good). ZANDER 5l 2nd of 16 to Lord Foley in National Hunt Flat race at Warwick (2m, good) on penultimate start, with GAF 50l 9th. GUNNY'S GIRL 57l 7th of 7 to Scoresheet in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm) Oct 95. VITA NUOVA 29l 5th of 16 to Warner For Players in National Hunt Flat (2m 1f, good to soft) April 96.
Selection: DARAKSHAN

2.40 HUGH PEEL CHALLENGE TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,474: 3m 110yd) (6 runners)

201	2-R2P-21	CAPE COTTAGE 6 (D,F,G,S) [illegible] 13-12-7	R Lawther (7)	[illegible]
202	4P/42P-0	HIGHWAY FIVE 11P (G) [illegible]	Miss E James (7)	80
203	35-UP	CORN EXCHANGE 25 (F) [illegible] 9-12-0	M Rimell (3)	–
204	PPEU-15	ORTON HOUSE 12P (F,G) [illegible] 10-12-0	R Burton (7)	–
205	U3CP-32	TEATRADER 18P (F,G,S) [illegible] 11-12-0	Miss T Blazey (7)	83
206	P1-1	TRUE FORTUNE 12P [illegible] 12-12-0	J Jukes (5)	–

BETTING: 5-4 Cape Cottage, 7-4 True Fortune, 5-1 Teatrader, 10-1 Orton House, 14-1 Highway Five, 25-1 Corn Exchange

1996: SQUIRRELLSDAUGHTER [illegible]

FORM FOCUS

CAPE COTTAGE beat For Parker 3l in 6-runner hunter chase at Ludlow (3m, good). Previously [illegible] 2nd of 12 to Miss Millbrook in hunter chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with CORN EXCHANGE pulled up 3 out. HIGHWAY FIVE 45l 7th of 10 to Mirella Express in [illegible] point-to-point at Warwick [illegible]. ORTON HOUSE 55l 5th of 16 to [illegible] in confined point-to-[illegible] point at [illegible] Park (good). Previously beat [illegible] in [illegible] members point to point at Wolverhampton (good to firm). TEATRADER 8l 2nd of 9 to Strong Chairman in confined point-to-point at Larkhill (good). TRUE FORTUNE beat [illegible] 2l in 14-runner [illegible] point-to-point at [illegible] (good).
Selection: CAPE COTTAGE

3.10 CROXTON NOVICES CHASE
(£3,339: 2m 1f 110yd) (8 runners)

301	130511	INDIAN JOCKEY 13 (F,G) [illegible] M Pipe 5-11-5	A P McCoy	[illegible]
302	00-PP5P	ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT [illegible] F Lloyd 7-11-1	S McNeill	–
303	0	ALTHREY LORD 60 [illegible] F Lloyd 7-11-1	T J Murphy	–
304	P3-2P	ANOTHER COMEDY 19 [illegible] R Lee 7-11-1	R Johnson	59
305	0 P60-	JASONS FARM 264 [illegible] 7-11-1	Guy Lewis (3)	–
306	66P.00-3	RELAXED LAD 16 [illegible] J Peacock 6-11-1	R Bellamy	–
307	/56064	SANTARAY 667 (G,S) [illegible] 11-11-1	Mr R Armson	–
308	6-00SF	THE SECRET GREY 22 [illegible] D McCain 6-11-1	D Walsh	72

BETTING: 1-2 Indian Jockey, 5-1 Another Comedy, 15-2 Relaxed Lad, 20-1 The Secret Grey, 25-1 Althrey Aristocrat, Jasons Farm, 33-1 others

1996: PERHAPS 5-10-4 [illegible] 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

INDIAN JOCKEY beat Bear the Fox 7l in 7-runner novice chase at Wincanton (2m, good). ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT tailed off 6th of 11 to Just Bruce in maiden chase at Leicester (2m 1f, good to firm) with THE SECRET GREY fell 1st. ALTHREY LORD 64l 12th of 14 to Simply Sporting in National Hunt Flat race at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm) with ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT 3l 12th and JASONS FARM 30l last. ANOTHER COMEDY 30l 2nd of 5 to Distant Memory in novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). RELAXED LAD tailed-off 3rd of 5 to [illegible] in novice chase at Hereford (2m, soft). SANTARAY 32l 4th of 8 to Solomon Springs in handicap hurdle at Southwell (3m 110yd, good to firm) final start, May 1995.
Selection: INDIAN JOCKEY (nap)

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M Pipe	21	76	27.6	D Bridgwater	15	70	21.4
D Gandolfo	6	29	20.7	C Llewellyn	10	51	19.6
N Twiston-Davies	13	65	20.0	W Marston	9	47	19.0
K Bailey	5	26	19.2	J Titley	3	20	15.0

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Moffatt's aim

LAGEN BRIDGE, the comfortable winner of the Glen Novices' Hurdle at Kelso yesterday for trainer Dudley Moffatt, could tackle the Royal SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham next week.

3.40 HOLYWELL SELLING HURDLE
(£2,337: 2m 1f) (19 runners)

401	24603-5	EMERALD VENTURE 19 (F,G) (F Coton) F Coton 10-12-0	C Rae (7)	70
402	235/2/5	KNIGHT IN SIDE 151 (F) (J Richards) M Pipe 11-12-0	C Maude	79
403	00P203-	EDWARD SEYMOUR 42F (S) (W Jenks) W Jenks 10-11-8	Mr R Burton (7)	79
404	U5FP52	HALHAM TARN 6 (S) (H Manners) H Manners 7-11-5	A Dowling (7)	89
405	13-4P2P	RAMSDENS 43 (G) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-8	C Llewellyn	98
406	404P/31	FIRST BEE 86 (F) (D Pugh) F Jordan 6-11-3	J Osborne	75
407	P56060	ADMIRAL'S GUEST 22 (D Ashbrook) W Clay 5-11-2	Guy Lewis (3)	65
408	020	A S JIM 47F (O O'Neill) O O'Neill 6-11-2	V Slattery	70
409	0P	BACKHANDER 22 (L Metcalf) R Phillips 5-11-2	D Bridgwater	–
410	06/P0P0-	BIT OF ROUGH 31P (Miss D Foode) W Clay 7-11-2	R Johnson	72
411	0-24652	ELA MAN HOWA 20F (Ponte Club) A Bailey 6-11-2	D Gallagher	69
412	0F	ESPLA 22 (L Doherty) J Moore 6-11-2	W McFarland	–
413	45205	KING RAT 8 (B) (T K Construction) J O Shea 6-11-2	A P McCoy	[illegible]
414	055-P0	KINGS VISION 36 (Mrs C Wilson) W Jenks 5-11-2	T Jenks	–
415	FP6-0	QUIXOTRY 11 (F Dickinson) J Mackie 6-11-2	W Marston	–
416	06000P-	VERRO 226F (P Purdy) K Bishop 10-11-2	L Harvey	–
417	4	EL BARDADOR 41 (B) (P Slade) R Hodges 4-10-8	T Dascombe (3)	87
418	50204	LAUGHING BUCCANEER 33 (D Carey) D Carey 4-10-8	B Powell	82
419	55	ANALOGICAL 25 (Clayton Bigley Partners) D McCain 4-10-3	D Walsh	78

BETTING: 3-1 Ramsdens, 5-1 Knight In Side, 7-1 First Bee, Halham Tarn, Ela Man Howa, 8-1 King Rat, 12-1 Edward Seymour, 14-1 others

1996: COAST ALONG 4-10-8 D J Burchell (9-2) D Burchell 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

EMERALD VENTURE 23l 5th of 10 to Ruth's Gamble in selling handicap hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good). HALHAM TARN 1¼l 2nd of 15 to Mellow Master in selling hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). RAMSDENS 7l 2nd of 4 to World Express in conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). FIRST BEE beat Caddy's First 1l in 12-runner claiming novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good to firm). ELA MAN HOWA 3l 2nd of 16 to Willy Star in selling hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). KING RAT 18¾l 5th of 14 to Cumbrian Maestro in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft). EL BARDADOR 23l 4th of 14 to Lady Magnum in claiming hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). LAUGHING BUCCANEER 17l 4th of 8 to D'naan in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good).
Selection: ELA MAN HOWA

4.10 CLOY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,713: 3m 110yd) (15 runners)

501	2/3211	CARIBOO GOLD 6 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Nelson) K Bailey 8-12-2 (6ex)	J Osborne	98
502	323	GARETHSON 12 (D Mercer) Miss H Knight 6-12-0	D Bridgwater	95
503	22P-15P	OCEAN LEADER 43 (D,F,G) (P Gibbings) Mrs D Haine 10-11-3	J F Titley	98
504	P/44234	CALLEVA STAR 18 (J Burley) R Alner 6-10-7	A Thornton	[illegible]
505	00323/	CANAVER 1054 (R Hall) P Webber 11-10-5	R Bellamy	–
506	5-P6205	ASTRAL INVASION 20 (B,F) (E Weetman) T Wall 6-10-3	R Massey (3)	–
507	2-0253P	PLASSY BOY 6 (V) (S Dangerfield Partners) K Burke 8-10-0	J Culloty	89
508	32-4056	RUBINS BOY 18 (F) (J Cooper) N Walker 11-10-0	R Farrant	–
509	43P-P	OVER THE WREKIN 96 (J Needham) J Needham 10-10-0	D Gallagher	85
510	42-56	CAPTIVA BAY 25 (Miss M De Quincey) Mrs A Hewitt 8-10-0	J R Kavanagh	85
511	F/0-F040	BONNIFER 27 (Towcester Members) M Wilkinson 8-10-0	W Marston	–
512	50 0000	NORDIC FLIGHT 8 (Lyonshall Racing) R Eckley 9-10-0	V Slattery	–
513	0P4	MILWAUKEE 19 (Mrs J Todd) D Brennan 9-10-0	M Brennan	84
514	P6P-0	NAPOLEON'S GOLD 35 (Ivy League) A Foster 7-10-0	D Creech (7)	–
515	556055	BURNTWOOD MELODY 16 (B) (R Frensham) P Dalton 6-10-0	B Fenton	81

BETTING: 9-4 Cariboo Gold, 3-1 Garethson, 5-1 Ocean Leader, 8-1 Calleva Star, 14-1 Astral Invasion, 16-1 Canaver, Plassy Boy, 20-1 others

1996: BANNTOWN BILL 7-11-3 D Bridgwater (5-1) M Pipe 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

CARIBOO GOLD beat Bolshie Baron 3l in 7-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m, good to soft). Previously beat Goldenswift 3½l in 15-runner novices handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good) with BONNIFER (15lb better off) tailed off 7th. GARETHSON short-head 2nd of 15 to Cloud's Brook in novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good) with MILWAUKEE pulled up 2 out. CALLEVA STAR 16l 4th of 16 to Sail By The Stars in novice chase at Windsor (2m 5f, good). PLASSY BOY 9l 3rd of 13 to Furry Fox in novices handicap chase at Fontwell (3m 2f 110yd, soft) penultimate start. MILWAUKEE 24l 4th of 7 to Flippance in novice chase at Fakenham (3m 110yd, good).
Selection: CARIBOO GOLD

4.40 SANDY LANE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,442: 2m 4f) (13 runners)

601	211123	ORDOG MOR 153 (F,G) (M Johnson) M Meagher 8-11-12	D Byrne	90
602	315F25	ALPINE MIST 120 (BF,F) [illegible] J J O'Shea 5-11-1	J T Nolan (7)	87
603	122123	D'NAAN 7 (B,C,G) (Mrs P Browne) M Pipe 4-10-12	A P McCoy	92
604	030-532	VALLINGALE 26 (Paddock Potential) Miss H Knight 6-10-12	J Culloty	90
605	645231	LOUGH TULLY 20 (S) (R Hancock) F Jordan 7-10-10	J Osborne	[illegible]
606	000	MONTEZUMAS REVENGE 668 (M Wilkinson) M Wilkinson 9-10-7	W Marston	–
607	P5/060	SNOWSHILL SHAKER 25 (A Knight) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-3	C Llewellyn	85
608	000	ROOD MUSIC 49F (M Johnson) M Meagher 6-10-2	B Powell	84
609	25-0004	LOTHIAN COMMANDER 26 (R Bellamy) D McCain 5-10-1	D Walsh	93
610	605-245	LUKE WARM 41 (N Crafford) D Gandolfo 7-10-0	Sophie Mitchell (5)	91
611	51460	BALMORAL PRINCESS 79 (B,C,F) (Mrs S Mann) J Peacock 4-10-0	R Bellamy	76
612	P00-0	KENNETT SQUARE 33 (Lady Mary-Smith) Lady Mary-Smith 9-10-0	J A McCarthy	–
613	6-00000	OUT OF THE BLUE 4 (M Eckley) M Eckley 5-10-0	Michael Brennan (3)	–

BETTING: 7-2 Lough Tully, 4-1 Vallingale, 5-1 D'Naan, 6-1 Ordog Mor, 8-1 Alpine Mist, 9-1 Lothian Commander, 10-1 Luke Warm, 14-1 others

1996: BELMORE CLOUD 7-10-7 Jamie Evans (14-1) M Pipe 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

ORDOG MOR 16½l 3rd of 4 to Freddie Muck in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (3m, good to firm). ALPINE MIST head 2nd of 9 to Steadfast Elite in conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good) penultimate start. D'NAAN 13l 3rd of 9 to Added Dimension in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). VALLINGALE head 2nd of 15 to Milling Brook in novices handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) with LOTHIAN COMMANDER (4lb better off) 11 4th. LOUGH TULLY beat Lord Khalice 8l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to soft). LUKE WARM 2½l 3rd of 17 to Madame President in conditionals handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: LOUGH TULLY

Cyborgo gathers support

CYBORGO, the Martin Pipe-trained gelding, has been cut from 20-1 to 16-1 by Ladbrokes for the Cheltenham Gold Cup after confirmation that Charlie Swan will ride him. Cyborgo, who is unbeaten in three novice chases, pleased the Irish champion jockey during a workout on Monday.

"I schooled him over six fences and he jumped very well," Swan said. "He's very laid-back but tough and he's a class horse, having won the Stayers' Hurdle. With luck in running he has to be thereabouts in the Gold Cup."

Tony McCoy, who had been linked with Cyborgo, will partner Mr Mulligan at Cheltenham.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

CATTERICK: Trainers: T Easterby, 6 winners from 14 runners, 42.9%; J Fitzgerald, 15 from 60, 25.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 20 from 97, 20.6%; B Rothwell, 4 from 25, 16.0%; P Beaumont, 9 from 66, 13.6%; J Eyre, 4 from 31, 12.9%; W Storey, 4 from 31, 12.9%. Jockeys: Miss P Robson, 3 winners from 9 rides, 33.3%; P Carberry, 5 from 20, 25.0%; P Niven, 20 from 83, 24.1%; T Eley, 5 from 21, 23.8%; M Moloney, 5 from 26, 19.2%; E Callaghan, 7 from 38, 18.4%; R Garritty, 14 from 93, 15.1%.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Trainers: R Charlton, 8 winners from 23 runners, 34.8%; J Banks, 6 from 20, 30.0%; M Johnston, 45 from 199, 22.6%; R Guest, 8 from 37, 21.6%; J Fanshawe, 3 from 15, 20.0%; B Smart, 6 from 31, 19.4%; J Pearce, 9 from 47, 19.1%. Jockeys: Anthony Bond, 5 winners from 17 rides, 29.4%; Mrs L Pearce, 4 from 15, 26.7%; W Ryan, 5 from 28, 17.9%; M J Dwyer, 3 from 20, 15.0%; G Duffield, 20 from 144, 13.9%; R Mullen, 3 from 22, 13.6%; D R McCabe, 9 from 68, 13.2%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Kelso

Going: good to soft

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Cullin Caper (E Callaghan, 15-2); 2, Arthur Bee (5-1); 3, Barton Heights (3-1 fav). 8 ran. 3½l, 5l. T Watson. Tote: £7.20; £1.50, £1.90, £1.10. DF: £10.90. CSF: £36.49. Tricast: £109.60.

2.30 (3m 3f hdle) 1, Establish (A Thornton, 50-1); 2, Ashgrove Dancer (1-2 fav); 3, Riveaux (5-1). 10 ran. NR: Fly Executive. ½l, 3l. J Dodds. Tote: £90.20; £5.40, £1.30, £1.30. DF: £34.90. Trio: £35.40. CSF: £75.54.

3.00 (2m 1f ch) 1, Real Tonic (P Carberry, 11-10 fav); 2, Moss Pageant (9-1); 3, Cardinal Sinner (100-1). 6 ran. 11l, dist. G Richards. Tote: £2.00; £1.00, £4.10. DF: £5.10. CSF: £8.67.

3.30 (3m 4f ch) 1, Call The Shots (R Johnson, 10-1); 2, Fiveleigh Builds (5-2); 3, Parsons Boy (7-2). Court Melody 11-8 fav (ur). 5 ran. NR: Act The Wag. Hd, 24l. J Wade. Tote: £11.00; £5.90, £1.40. DF: £18.30. CSF: £29.56.

4.00 (2m 6f 110yd ch) 1, Disco Des Mottes (P Carberry, 6-4 fav); 2, Last Refuge (25-1); 3, Blazing Dawn (25-1). 5 ran. NR: Risky Dee. 3½l, 3l. G Richards. Tote: £2.10; £1.20, £4.20. DF: £21.80. CSF: £16.82. Risky Dee (9-1) was withdrawn, not under orders — Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduct 10p in pound.

4.30 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Lagen Bridge (D J Moffatt, 2-7 fav); 2, Castle Red (14-1); 3, Persian Grange (100-1). 8 ran. NR: Sir Bob. 9l, 5l. D Moffatt. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £4.30, £14.30. DF: £10.90. Trio: £73.50. CSF: £5.51.

5.00 (3m 3f hdle) 1, Smart Approach (P Niven, 5-4 fav); 2, Solomon Springs (8-1); 3, Master of The Rock (5-1). 5 ran. 3½l, 22l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £3.10. DF: £4.70. CSF: £9.87.

Placepot: £63.90. Quadpot: £29.80.

Leicester

Going: good (soft in places)

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Teeton Mill (Mr B Pollock, 11-10 fav); 2, Cherry Island (10-1); 3, Up For Ransome (50-1). 15 ran. NR: Tellaporky. 3l, 3½l. Miss C Saunders. Tote: £2.30; £1.50, £4.20, £13.90. DF: £13.20. Trio: £205.30. CSF: £10.34.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: DAHIYAH
(1.50 Wolverhampton)
Next best: Darakshan
(2.10 Bangor)

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Eastern River (Mr R Thornton, 4-7 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Dolikos (25-1); 3, Prize Match (14-1). 9 ran. 5l, hd. T Forster. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £3.50, £2.20. DF: £6.60. Trio: £25.60. CSF: £18.20. Tricast: £100.86.

3.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Trifast Lad (Mr P Hacking, 5-1); 2, Minella Express (15-8 fav); 3, Busman (4-1). 6 ran. 2l, 3½l. M Roberts. Tote: £5.70; £2.20, £2.20. DF: £6.50. CSF: £14.36.

3.50 (3m ch) 1, Highlandman (Mr Chris Wilson, 66-1); 2, Fealajade (25-1); 3, Glen Oak (20-1). Corner Boy 7-4 fav. 7 ran. ½l, 2l. J Haldane. Tote: £49.70; £13.40, £3.70. DF: £50.80. CSF: £839.60.

4.20 (3m ch) 1, Copper Thistle (Mr R Hunnisett, 13-2); 2, Elmore (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Mitchells Best (6-1). Peniot 9-4 jt-fav. 9 ran. 11l, 11l. N Pomfret. Tote: £6.60; £2.80, £1.60, £1.10. DF: £3.90. Trio: £6.00. CSF: £19.22.

4.50 (2m 1f ch) 1, A Windy Citizen (Mr A Sansome, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Nowhiski (8-1); 3, Corly Special (9-2). Beau Dandy 5-2 jt-fav. 13 ran. NR: Mhemeanles. 2l, 4l. Mrs C Hicks. Tote: £4.60; £2.50, £5.00, £1.20. DF: £14.80. Trio: £39.50. CSF: £21.51.

Jackpot: £19,580.10 (0 1 winning tickets. Pool of £24,819.88 carried forward to Bangor today).

Placepot: £1,214.40. Quadpot: £334.60.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.10 (5f) 1, Eager To Please (D Holland, 100-30 fav); 2, Blues Magic (7-2); 3, Sparkling Edge (11-2). 8 ran. NR: Chiling. 1½l, nk. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £2.10, £1.70. DF: £7.70. Trio: £10.90. CSF: £12.91.

2.40 (1m 2f) 1, Captain's Day (R Mullen, 5-4 fav); 2, Digpast (16-1); 3, Mimosa (16-1). 8 ran. 2½l, 1½l. H Collingridge. Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £3.80, £3.40. DF: £15.20. CSF: £20.64. Tricast: £192.68.

3.10 (2m) 1, High Five (G Bardwell, 9-4 fav); 2, Outstayed Welcome (16-1); 3, Colonlige (7-2). 9 ran. NR: Broughtons Formula. 3½l, sh hd. R Ingram. Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £1.60, £1.50. DF: £23.10. Trio: £33.80. CSF: £33.51. Tricast: £98.70.

3.40 (1m) 1, Live Project (D Holland, 11-4); 2, Royal Carlton (5-2 fav); 3, Robellion (3-1). 7 ran. Nk, 5l. M Johnston. Tote: £4.00; £2.00, £1.40. DF: £4.10. CSF: £9.49.

4.10 (1m) 1, Ki Chi Saga (R Hughes, 16-1); 2, Tuigamala (3-1 jt-fav); 3, Perilous Plight (100-30). Rasin 3-1 jt-fav. 8 ran. 2½l, sh hd. M Madgwick. Tote: £25.30; £5.20, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £36.40. CSF: £60.60.

4.40 (1m 5f) 1, English Invader (Mr T McCarthy, 5-1); 2, Don't Drop Bombs (16-1); 3, Hoghth of Fame (7-1). Lola 3-1 fav. 10 ran. 4l, 3l. C Dwyer. Tote: £7.00; £2.30, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £79.80. Trio: £84.40. CSF: £80.54. Tricast: £528.26.

Placepot: £38.30. Quadpot: £21.90.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

1.55 Lixos. 2.25 Oversman. 3.00 Political Sam. 3.30 Bold Account. 4.00 Tip It In. 4.30 Roberty Lea. 5.00 Easby Blue.

Carl Evans: 3.00 Sayin Nowt.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

1.55 ASKEW DESIGN AND PRINT SELLING HURDLE
(£1,953: 2m) (12 runners)

1	/0P	EMERALD SEA 22 (S) J Barclay 10-11-7	B Storey	–
2	103-	LIXOS 350 (D,G) W Storey 6-11-7	R McGrath (5)	[illegible]
3	R0	COEUR FRANCAIS 11 (B) N Waggott 5-11-0	S Haworth (7)	–
4	6-	I'M TYSON 333 Mrs D Sayer 9-11-0	M Moloney	63
5	0150	KIERCHEM 8 (CD,BF,G) C Grant 6-11-0	P Niven	81
6	4600	PRIMITIVE HEART 36 (B) H Johnson 5-11-0	A Larnach	80
7	04	RASIN STANDARDS 11 R Craggs 7-11-0	A Dobbin	–
8	2/0	THE GREY TEXAN 8 V Thompson 8-11-0	Mr M Thompson	–
9		MR TITCH 12F W McKeown 4-10-6	G Cahill	–
10	3306	NOIR ESPRIT 11 J Carr 4-10-6	F Leahy (3)	94
11	00	RASCO 19F M Camacho 4-10-1	E Callaghan (3)	–
12	0605	RADMORE BRANDY 25 G Richards 4-10-1	G Lee (3)	89

5-2 Noir Esprit, 4-1 Radmore Brandy, 5-1 Kierchem, 7-1 Lixos, 8-1 Primitive Heart, 10-1 Emerald Sea, Rasco, 16-1 others.

2.25 BEAUFORD PLC NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,469: 2m) (13)

1	0611	LAST TRY 77 (CD,F,G) B Rothwell 6-12-0	E Callaghan (3)	98
2	030-	ALLERBY 305 J Goulding 9-11-0	J Supple	96
3	00	HUNTING SLANE 46 C Grant 5-11-0	P Niven	–
4	0-05	MILENBERG JOYS 20 P Calver 5-11-0	T Reed	89
5	0	PRAISE BE 12 T Tate 7-11-0	J Callaghan	–
6	05	ROMALDKIRK 11 V Thompson 5-11-0	Mr M Thompson	–
7		UNDAWATERSCUBADIVA 5F M Bielby 5-11-0	A Dobbin	–
8	21	CUMBRIAN MAESTRO 8 (CD,S) T Easterby 4-10-13	R Garritty	[illegible]
9	0-00	PENNY PEPPERMINT 20 R Barr 5-10-9	D Parker	–
10	006-	TWABLADE 333 F Murphy 9-10-9	M Foster	–
11	0	OVERSMAN 95 J Fitzgerald 4-10-6	P Carberry	–
12	0	RESPECTING 88 J Moore 4-10-6	N Smith	–
13		QUEEN'S COUNSEL 130F Miss M Milligan 4-10-1	B Storey	–

4-5 Cumbrian Maestro, 4-1 Last Try, 6-1 Oversman, 8-1 Undawaterscubadiva, 10-1 Allerby, 12-1 Twablade, 20-1 others

3.00 PYTCHLEY ECHO NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,116: 3m 1f 110yd) (10)

1	U3-3	ADMISSION 3P (G) Mrs S Horner-Harker 7-12-0	Miss L Horner (7)	[illegible]
2	P-2U	BERVIE HOUSE 17P (G,S) W Warner 9-12-0	R Ford (5)	–
3	P-11	BOULEVARD BAY 24P (F,G) T Walford 6-12-0	N Wilson (5)	–
4	2-23	EASTLANDS HI-LIGHT 11P (G) J Stanley 8-12-0	T Morrison (7)	97
5	P14-	GALZIG 355 (G) Mrs D Turner 9-12-0	W Tellwright (7)	95
6	401P	GREENMOUNT LAD 11P (G,S) J Comforth 9-12-0	P Comforth (7)	–
7	-3PF	MOBILE MESSENGER 12 (S) T George 9-12-0	Miss S Samworth (7)	95
8	63-1	POLITICAL SAM 24P (F,S) David F Smith 8-12-0	N F Smith (7)	–
9	.24-	SIR HARRY RINUS 338P F Murtagh 11-12-0	R Hale (5)	–
10	11-1	SAYIN NOWT 11P (F,G) F Anderson 9-11-9	A Parker (7)	–

3-1 Boulevard Bay, 7-2 Political Sam, 4-1 Sayin Nowt, 6-1 Mobile Messenger, 8-1 Galzig, Admission, 14-1 Eastlands Hi-Light, 16-1 others.

3.30 ROBERT FLEMING NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,103: 3m 1f 110yd) (9)

1	3231	BOLD ACCOUNT 19 (B,G) G Moore 7-11-10	A Dobbin	94
2	2P-U	KING OF STEEL 6 (S) M Hammond 11-11-9	R Garritty	–
3	361F	KINGS SERMON 15 (D,G) P Beaumont 8-11-3	R Supple	90
4	3122	TICO GOLD 6 (CD,G) P Cheesbrough 9-11-7	G Cahill	95
5	1P43	ELLIOTT'S WISH 20 (G) N Johnson 6-11-4	M Moloney	81
6	-038	RATHFARDON 50 F Murphy 9-10-9	P Carberry	90
7	24U4	KARENASTINO 11 Mrs S Smith 6-10-2	R Wilkinson (7)	[illegible]
8	0000	TRIONA'S HOPE 8 E Cantillon 8-10-0	S Taylor (5)	–
9	'65	KNOCKREIGH CROSS 8 B Rothwell 8-10-0	B Storey	–

9-4 Bold Account, 7-2 Kings Sermon, 5-1 King Of Steel, 6-1 Tico Gold, 7-1 Karenastino, 8-1 Elliott's Wish, 10-1 Rathfardon, 20-1 others.

4.00 CONISTON HALL RESTAURANT HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,110: 2m 3f) (16)

1	0-01	TIRMIZI 54F (CD,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 6-12-0	J Supple	88
2	0-P6	MOORSHINE DANCER 7 (C,F,G,S) D Baker 7-11-12	F Madsley (3)	–
3	2102	TIP IT IN 15 (CD,G,S) A Smith 5-11-7	N Horrocks (7)	98
4	1033	FRYUP SATELLITE 20 (CD,BF,G) Mrs J Brown 6-11-0	Miss P Robson	95
5	1483	COURT JOKER 7 (G) H Alexander 5-10-13	R McGrath (5)	98
6	-F00	MAJOR YAASI 15 (B,S) J Glover 7-10-13	A Dobbin	–
7	-060	ALL CLEAR 19 (G,S) H Johnson 6-10-12	D Parker	[illegible]
8	0334	AUNTIE ALICE 15 J Fitzgerald 7-10-10	P Carberry	80
9	-P55	MRS JAWLEYFORD 13 (G,S) C Smith 9-10-9	M Ranger	96
10	6424	AIDE MEMOIRE 30 (S) R Johnson 8-10-7	K Johnson	95
11	6604	HELENS BAY 68 (G) V Thompson 7-10-6	Mr M Thompson	95
12	/U1	FIRST IN THE FIELD 8 (C,S) S Mason 6-10-5 (6ex)	S Haworth (7)	93
13	U521	YACHT CLUB 33 (F,G) (CD) J Eyre 15-10-3	C Elliott (7)	94
14	-003	DECENT PENNY 8 Mrs R Armac 8-10-3	T Eley	84
15	0SP5	ALAN'S PRIDE 8 W McKeown 6-10-0	G Cahill	91
16	-413	SHELTON ABBEY 141 (B,F,G,S) J Wade 11-10-0	B Storey	91

4-1 Tip It In, 5-1 Court Joker, 6-1 First In The Field, 7-1 Fryup Satellite, 8-1 Auntie Alice, 10-1 Aide Memoire, Tirmizi, 12-1 others.

4.30 PETER VAUX MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICES CHASE
(£3,556: 2m 3f) (8)

1	1P12	ROBERTY LEA 8 (C,BF,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-9	P Niven	[illegible]
2	FGP0	DISTILLERY HILL 11 V Thompson 9-11-2	Mr M Thompson	86
3	0P-0	FORT ZEDDAAN 76 Mrs S Smith 7-11-2	R Wilkinson (7)	–
4	/00	HIGH MOOD 21 T George 7-11-2	Mr M Fitzgerald (7)	–
5	PUU6	MOST RICH 11 (V) B Ellison 9-11-2	T Reed	–
6		OAKLANDS BILLY Mrs M Sowersby 5-11-2	N Smith	–
7	0F44	TAPATCH 15 (F,G) Mr M Easterby 9-11-2	P Carberry	–
8	31-	MONKEY WENCH 504 (F) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-10-11	B Storey	–

5-4 Roberty Lea, 3-1 Tapatch, 5-1 Oaklands Billy, 6-1 Monkey Wench, 12-1 High Mood, 16-1 Fort Zeddaan, 20-1 others.

5.00 LANE, CLARK & PEACOCK INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,175: 2m) (9)

1		BOSTON BOMBER R Woodhouse 6-11-2	P Carberry	–
2	5	EASBY BLUE 22 S Kettlewell 5-11-2	P Niven	–
3	R04	EASTCLIFFE 29 W McKeown 5-11-2	G Cahill	–
4		GOING PRIMITIVE J Hetherton 6-11-2	A Dobbin	–
5		ROYAL CHIP Miss M Milligan 5-11-2	N Horrocks (7)	–
6		STANWICK HALL Miss S Williamson 5-11-2	J Supple	–
7		WHINHOLME LASS F Kirby 5-10-11	W Dwan	–
8		KERIALI M Hammond 4-10-8	R Garritty	–
9		OH BROTHER W Raw 4-10-8	J Callaghan	–

7-4 Keriali, 3-1 Easby Blue, 7-2 Eastcliffe, 6-1 Boston Bomber, 12-1 Going Primitive, 14-1 Royal Chip, Stanwick Hall, 16-1 others.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.50 Dahiyah. 2.20 Marjorie Rose. 2.50 Sword Arm. 3.20 Globetrotter. 3.50 Leading Spirit. 4.20 Sarasi. 4.50 Thick As Thieves.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.50 Perfect Poppy. 3.20 DON SEBASTIAN (nap). 3.50 Leading Spirit.

GOING: STANDARD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

1.50 SANDSTORM AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(Div I: £1,649: 6f) (10 runners)

1	0502	LEIGH CROFTER 12 (B,C,D,F,G,S) P Cundell 8-11-7	T McCarthy	5
2	8633	DESERT INVADER 5 (CD,B,S) D Chapman 6-11-2	Miss R Clark	3
3	060-	STEAL 'EM 95 (B,F) A Bailey 4-11-0	Miss A L Hutchinson (7)	4
4	-153	DAHIYAH 23 (V,D,F,G) B Smart 6-10-10	Miss V Marshall (4)	8
5	1233	BOLD HABIT 9 (D,F,G) J Pearce 12-9-12	Mrs L Pearce	9
6	-4-54	MARGARETROSE ANNA 9 B Baugh 5-9-11	Miss Diana Jones	10
7	000-	ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 107 (D,F,S) R McKellar 5-9-10	Mrs C Williams (4)	2
8	-050	SALLY ARMSTRONG 13 C Thornton 4-9-9	V Lukaniuk (4)	7
9	5331	RING THE CHIEF 9 (G) M Usher 5-9-6 (7ex)	Mrs A Usher (4)	1
10	4305	ASTRAL INVADER 8 (D,F,S) M Saunders 5-9-4	K Goble	6

3-1 Ring The Chief, 7-2 Bold Habit, 9-2 Leigh Crofter, 5-1 Dahiyah, 8-1 Desert Invader, 10-1 Steal 'em, Astral Invader, 12-1 others.

2.20 SANDSTORM AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(Div II: £1,649: 6f) (10)

1	4601	LITTLE IBNR 4 (CD,F,G) P Evans 6-12-0 (7ex)	A Evans (4)	3
2	060-	NAISSANT 109 (D,G,S) R McKellar 4-11-6	Mrs C Williams (4)	5
3	0-40	TAKHLID 12 (F,S) D Chapman 6-11-0	Miss R Clark	8
4	-664	MARJORIE ROSE 12 (CD,G) A Bailey 4-11-0	Miss B Gatehouse (4)	10
5	00-0	DANCING SIOUX 9 (G) R Guest 5-10-13	Miss Z Burkett (7)	4
6	0-00	LOCHON 6 (V,D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 6-10-4	Miss Diana Jones	6
7	000-	CHIEF'S LADY 174J J Bradley 5-9-10	Miss V Roberts (4)	9
8	0533	DREAM CARRIER 9 (C,F,G) R Peacock 9-9-7	Mrs C Peacock (7)	1
9	-030	SOUTHERN DOMINION 20 (C,D,G) Miss J Craze 5-9-5	W Wenyon (7)	7
10	4001	MUSTANG 4 (B,C,G) C Thornton 4-9-1 (7ex)	Mrs L Pearce	2

3-1 Little Ibnr, 7-2 Mustang, 9-2 Marjorie Rose, 6-1 Dancing Sioux, 7-1 Lochon, 8-1 Dream Carrier, 10-1 Takhlid, 12-1 others.

2.50 TEMPEST MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,404: 1m 100yd) (9)

1	0/	RINUS MAGIC 521 E Alston 4-9-10	K Fallon	3
2	20/	VENICE BEACH 20J C Brooks 5-9-10	J D Smith (3)	5
3	50-	CONDITION RED 67 M Saunders 4-9-5	S Drowne	4
4	50	KROSNO 21 S Williams 3-8-6	Darren Williams (7)	6
5	06-	LITTLE ACORN 109 S Williams 3-8-6	J Tate	8
6	40	ONLY JOSH 7 Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-6	J Fanning	9
7	442-	SWORD ARM 170 R Charlton 3-8-6	T Sprake	7
8	06-	BOUT 158 R McKellar 3-8-1	T Williams	2
9	34-	PERFECT POPPY 116 J Fanshawe 3-8-1	D Harrison	1

6-4 Sword Arm, 3-1 Perfect Poppy, 6-1 Venice Beach, 8-1 Only Josh, 10-1 Little Acorn, 12-1 Krosno, 14-1 Bout, 16-1 others.

3.20 CYCLONE HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £5,368: 1m 100yd) (8)

1	-103	FOOT BATTALION 7 (C,G) R Hollinshead 9-7	F Lynch (3)	6
2	2262	MILLROY 9 (V,C,G) P Kelleway 9-4	M Wigham	5
3	22-1	DON SEBASTIAN 21 (C,G) W Haggas 8-11	K Fallon	2
4	014-	I CAN'T REMEMBER 116 (D,F,G,S) P Evans 8-11	D Wright	7
5	1132	GLOBETROTTER 14 (CD,G) M Johnston 8-10	D McKeown	8
6	621-	CEE-N-K 84 (D,G) M Johnston 8-9	J Fanning	1
7	256-	TINKERBELL 128 (V,C,G) W Muir 7-10	J Bramhill (5)	3
8	-512	MUTAHADETH 19 (D,BF,G) D Shaw 7-10	P Fessey (5)	4

3-1 Don Sebastian, 4-1 Cee-N-K, 5-1 Foot Battalion, Globetrotter, 6-1 Millroy, 7-1 Mutahadeth, 10-1 Tinkerbell, 12-1 I Can't Remember.

3.50 B S D HANDICAP (£5,472: 1m 4f) (9)

1	002-	LEONATO 124 (G) P Evans 5-10-0	D Griffiths (5)	7
2	06-0	MAJOR CHANGE 17 (F) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-2	K Fallon	9
3	1124	CHINA CASTLE 7J (C,D,G) P Haslam 4-8-13	P Goode (7)	2
4	31-1	LEADING SPIRIT 14 (CD,F,G,S) C Wall 5-8-13	G Duffield	8
5	0235	SECOND COLOURS 7 (C,F,G) M Pipe 7-8-11	Martin Dwyer (3)	6
6	5-13	HILL FARM DANCER 7 (CD,F,G) W Brisbourne 6-8-7	Anthony Bond (7)	1
7	1-21	ALBAHA 54 (D,G) J Banks 4-8-6	R Mullen (5)	4
8	5422	NIKITA'S STAR 14 (CD,F,G) D Murray Smith 4-8-1	A Daly (5)	5
9	5-40	MONTECRISTO 35 (D,F,G) R Guest 4-7-10	J Bramhill (5)	3

3-1 Leading Spirit, 7-2 Albaha, 5-1 Leonato, 6-1 China Castle, 7-1 Nikita's Star, 8-1 Hill Farm Dancer, 10-1 others.

4.20 BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES
(£1,999: 1m 1f 79yd) (10)

1	0531	NORTHERN FAN 5 (C,G) N Tinkler 5-9-4	D McKeown	6
2	-110	SARASI 5 (CD,BF,G) M Camacho 5-9-4	L Charnock	1
3	6461	SOLDIER COVE 11 (G,S) M Meade 7-9-4	D Sweeney (5)	10
4	-802	FLAGSTAFF 12 K Burke 4-8-12	A Culhane	2
5	0-60	NORTH ARDAR 15 (V,F,G) T Wall 7-8-12	P McCabe (3)	5
6	0-00	AMNESTY BAY 21 (G) M Usher 5-8-7	C Rutter	4
7	05-0	DAVID JAMES' GIRL 9 (C,G,S) A Bailey 5-8-7	G Faulkner (5)	7
8	0006	EFFICACIOUS 12 (B) P Eccles 4-8-7	J Bramhill (5)	8
9	-460	EMEI SHAN 48 th G M Turner 4-8-7	T Sprake	3
10	3466	FIABA 9 (V,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-8-7	D Harrison	9

11-4 Northern Fan, 7-2 Soldier Cove, 4-1 Sarasi, 6-1 Flagstaff, 8-1 Fiaba, 10-1 David James' Girl, 12-1 North Ardar, 14-1 others.

4.50 MONSOON HANDICAP (£2,531: 5f) (13)

1	-242	MADRINA 14 (G) J Berry 4-10-0	P Fessey (5)	9
2	-403	SHADOW JURY 26 (B,CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-12	L Charnock	4
3	406-	SONGSHEET 137 (D,G) M Saunders 4-9-11	R Perham	2
4	00-1	NEEDLE MATCH 12 (C,G) J J O'Neill 4-9-9	W Ryan	11
5	5126	GI LA HIGH 14 (CD,G) M Meade 4-9-8	D Sweeney (5)	10
6	3862	FEATHERSTONE LANE 4 (V,CD,F,G) Miss L Siddall 6-9-1	D R McCabe	1
7	6-44	BOWCLIFFE GRANGE 6 (D,BF,F) D Chapman 5-8-13	A Culhane	12
8	3266	ALJAZ 12 (CD,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 7-8-11	K Fallon	6
9	6454	BOFFY 4 (B,CD,G) B Baugh 4-8-11	Iona Wands (7)	8
10	1000	SOTONIAN 14 (CD,G) P Felgate 4-8-9	J Bramhill (5)	5
11	2030	THICK AS THIEVES 20 (D,F,G) Ronald Thompson 5-8-7	D Denby (7)	7
12	000-	DEARDAW 161 Miss L Siddall 5-7-10	T Williams	3
13	0000	MAYSIMP 9 B Baugh 4-7-10	Dale Gibson	13

4-1 Madrina, 5-1 Featherstone Lane, 6-1 Shadow Jury, 7-1 Needle Match, 8-1 Thick As Thieves, Gi La High, 10-1 Sotonian, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bangor: 3.40 El Bardador, King Rat. 4.10 Burntwood Melody. 4.10 Plassy Boy. Catterick: 1.55 Coeur Francais, Primitive Heart. Wolverhampton: 1.50 Steal 'Em. 4.20 Efficacious, North Ardar.

هكذا من الأصل

Oliver Holt on a former world champion pursued by his image

Schumacher in search of limited company

MIKE COOPER / ALLSPORT

Schumacher ponders the future and his chances of a world championship with Ferrari

The paddock at Estoril was almost deserted. Just two teams, Ferrari and McLaren, were there. It was a closed test, open only to people invited by the participants. Somewhere, on the pit wall or in the garages, there were one or two journalists and a couple of photographers. Out in the sun, by a wire fence, three drivers were talking.

David Coulthard was the most animated of the trio, standing and making a point that made the other two laugh. Eddie Irvine was lounging, propped up against the fence, practising his studied laconic look. Next to them, staring up at the blue sky, Michael Schumacher was lying on the bonnet of a car savouring a rare moment of peace.

For Schumacher, twice a Formula One world champion, these moments are few and far between, oases in the desert of his celebrity and his wealth. His elevation to the ranks of the highest-paid sportsmen, behind only Evander Holyfield and Michael Jordan, has brought as its inevitable corollary the erosion of the private life he holds so dear.

He has taken the loss of the world championship to Damon Hill last year in his stride, is still committed to the long-term goal of building Ferrari into the giant of the late 1990s, and resigned, apparently, to losing to Jacques Villeneuve and his Williams-Renault both in the first race of the season, the Australian Grand Prix here in Melbourne on Sunday, and throughout the rest of the year.

The effect of the blanket scrutiny, the unremitting attention, the presence of the mobs of fans and autograph-hunters that swarm around him every time he appears in public, has been to make him tense, even irritable, in public and to reinforce the common opinion that he is just another arrogant German, a strutting Teuton without a hint of vulnerability.

It is the quality that most people associate him with, confusing it, perhaps, with his ruthless superiority on the track, his systematic crushing of Hill in 1994 and 1995 and his austere public persona, but, as he confronted a second season cast in the role of underdog, he took the opportunity of that test in Estoril last month to speak for the first time about the misconceptions that surround his personality.

"Of course I am confident in certain respects," he said. "But what I am not confident in is handling a big mass of people and that is where I tend to look arrogant, I think. It is because I am trying to make a shell around myself to stop people coming too close to me.

"As I have grown up as a nobody, sometimes I don't understand why people become so crazy for me. I would not go to anyone and ask for signatures so it is difficult for me to understand why they want one. I accept it. I do it because it is part of my job but I don't particularly like it.

"I have loved this test because I could just be myself for a bit, sitting in the sun. If I have ten photographers around me or ten people, then it makes me feel uncomfortable because they look at you and they listen to you. And then you just have to disappear again.

"I know that because of it, I look arrogant sometimes. I don't like it because I know I am not that way, but if people do not see the real Michael Schumacher then that is up to them."

He added: "Even now that I have moved to Switzerland, where I thought people would not bother me so much as they did in Monaco, I get disturbed when I go shopping with my wife in the supermarket. I give one autograph and then they all come and, again, this is the time when I look arrogant because I say: 'This is private,' and people do not understand."

When he arrived in Melbourne two days ago to prepare for the race on Sunday and to try to begin the process of claiming Ferrari's first world drivers' title for 18 years, the same problems screamed out at him from local newspapers and magazines.

"Schumacher is on a pedestal above the rest as a driver," Alan Jones, the Australian former world champion, said, "but I don't like him as a person. He's arrogant."

Then, when Schumacher made a mild criticism of the Albert Park circuit, where the race will be held, the promoter questioned Schumacher's manhood and said he expected better from a sportsman "who earns in excess of $30 million a year".

Schumacher is scheduled to appear at a press conference tomorrow to try to still the controversy without it hampering his preparations for a race for which he may struggle to qualify in the front two rows.

If anything, Ferrari appear to have gone backwards over the winter, slipping from Williams' chief challengers to a team struggling to keep pace with the advances made by both Benetton and McLaren. In the early stages of the season, in particular, Schumacher admits Ferrari may not be competitive.

"I accept this situation at Ferrari and I expected it," Schumacher said. "In the long-term I still think I can achieve my goal, which is to win the championship with Ferrari and then make the team the equivalent of the McLaren of the Eighties and the Williams of the Nineties, always a step ahead of the rest."

Much of the groundwork, the restructuring, has now been done at Ferrari headquarters in Maranello. Men such as Ross Brawn and Rory Byrne, the technical and design kingpins of Schumacher's success with Benetton, have been drafted in and the troublesome system of designing the car in England and building it in Italy has been scrapped. The changes were made too late to affect this season but they should bear fruit in 1998.

Even these developments, though, have paled into insignificance for a man to whom racing is supposed to be everything. Two weeks ago his wife, Corinna, gave birth to their first child, Gina Maria, but in Estoril, a week before she arrived, Schumacher was happy to admit how important his family was to him.

"Racing is fun," he said, "but family is everything together. It covers the whole of life from beginning to end. When I feel the baby move in my wife's tummy, when she moves around in the morning or in the evening, racing is nothing compared to that."

Due to demand, faxed entries for Fantasy Formula One can be received until noon tomorrow, March 6. Call 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside UK)

Fighting a losing battle to suppress the basic instincts

SIMON BARNES

Midweek View

A gloriously natural player, people say, a wonderfully *instinctive* player. This is a routine chunk of praise, sometimes with a faintly patronising ring to it; you are more likely to find a black athlete praised for his glorious instinct than a white one.

On Saturday, Chelsea were cruising comfortably enough to a victory when Frank Leboeuf stopped the ball with his hand. It was, if you like, a wonderfully instinctive save: certainly, Leboeuf acted without thought.

He acted almost in spite of himself, in defiance of cerebral messages screaming at him to keep his hands to himself. Instinct took over, though, and was unstoppable. Consequently, Chelsea lost Leboeuf, who was sent off for his crime, the match, and the three points.

Sport is supposed to be rather an animal sort of pastime, one in which animal instincts run riot, but this is not the case at all. As soon as an athlete relies on instinct, he is in trouble. Graham Gooch, for example, was out "handled the ball" when batting for England. The ball was looping onto the stumps and the gloved hand darted out, under its own volition, to dab the ball away. Gooch, mortified, left the field. The instinctive dab was performed with him a horrified spectator.

I heard of a wonderful piece of instinctive play in a hockey match when a player courageously headed a shot off the line. He was sent off for the crime, but had to leave the pitch anyway because he knocked himself out — and the penalty stroke was converted anyway. But the poor dizzy defender could not help himself.

The other week, I watched Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens scrum half, in a piece of classically instinctive play. A player got by him and, unable to help himself, he dropped his man with a ferocious stiff-arm tackle. Goulding, too, left the field horrified at himself. Both codes of rugby are combat sports in which you *must* stop your man. Such tackles, though punished severely, are inevitable.

People talk about instinctive batting, but most of batting is about overcoming the natural instinct to get out of the way of a dangerous missile. This is precisely why cricket is regarded so highly as a test of character for the young.

Always mistrust a batsman who tells you his favourite stroke is the cut: it is the only textbook shot you can play while moving away from the ball. Good batting is about the defiance of your natural instincts. Many batsmen will stand away from their bat and, as the ball is bowled, move towards it. It is a way of short-circuiting the instinct to run away.

Primates — lemurs, monkeys and various apes, including our own species — are defined by their hands, equipped as they are with opposable thumbs. In humankind, the bipedal gait freed the hands and set them up exclusively as organs of manipulation, rather than propulsion.

Football is about defiance of that essential fact of human life. Only the goalkeeper represents a higher form of life by using his hands. Football, like cricket, is a game about the conquest of natural instinct.

A further layer of quasi-instinctive behaviour comes into sport with practice. It is not exactly innate behaviour, but a difficult mélange of instinct and the desire to play the chosen game. Thus, a batsman will naturally seek to hit every ball. At the lower levels of the game, you find players quite incapable of playing a leave-shot. Even at the highest level, players compulsively twitch outside off-stump at balls they know they should not play. The corridor of uncertainty is not the question of whether or not the ball will hit the stumps, it is the question of whether or not the batsman is capable of controlling his schooled-in instinct to play at the ball.

Chasing the ball is also quasi-instinctive in football. Watch children playing and you find 20 of them around the ball like a loose scrum. Football, at any decent level, is about controlling the schooled-in instinct to run after the ball and to hold shape, to be responsible, tactically aware.

It is at this point that we find a further complication. Players seeking to rise to a higher level must use their brains, but if instinct can lead to disastrous movement, thought can lead to paralysis. Mike Gatting, seeking to establish himself as a Test cricketer, was determined to play sensibly and not to play his natural game, but to be responsible. Don't try to whack everything, he told himself. He was out leg-before without playing a stroke twice in the same Test match.

In the same way, teams get stifled by tactical demands, by the need to keep it tight, to play within their limits, to defy the instinct for freedom that lurks in any one who ever played a game.

The fact is, you see, that sport is an unnatural act and not an animal pastime at all. Sport is distinctly cerebral. It is about going beyond what is natural. Sport is a high product of civilisation, nothing less; one that is based on the brain's capacity to master natural instinct.

Let us leave the last word with C. L. R. James, writing of the "natural instincts" of Sir Learie Constantine: "It was not due to his marvellous West Indian wrists and marvellous West Indian eyes. It was due, if you must have it, to his marvellous West Indian brains."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

An impressive 527 teams from 203 clubs have entered the Fidelity Investments 1996-7 inter-club knockout. This hand is from a second round match between teams from Reading and Abingdon.

Dealer North **Love all** **IMPs**

North:
♠ 6 4 3
♥ A K 10 3
♦ A K Q J 8 2
♣ —

West:
♠ 9 5
♥ 8 7 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ A 8 4 3 2

East:
♠ J 8 7
♥ J 9 6
♦ 7 5
♣ K 9 7 6 5

South:
♠ A K Q 10 2
♥ Q 5 2
♦ 10 4
♣ Q J 10

W	N	E	S
—	1C	Pass	1S
Pass	2D	Pass	2NT
Pass	3S	Pass	4S
Pass	4NT	Pass	5S
Pass	6S	All Pass	

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: ace of clubs

North's Precision Club opening showed any hand with 16+ points. The Five Spade response to 4 NT denoted two out of five "aces" (the trump king counts as an ace), and the queen of spades. There may be some hidden nuances I have not absorbed, but it looks like North's use of Blackwood with a void was the reason for the missed grand slam. He then had no way of telling whether South's two "aces" included the wasted ace of clubs.

The play in Six Spades on a club lead is not trivial. Declarer might ruff and, noting Seven Diamonds is a racing certainty, play off a despondent ace-king of trumps. Now he would go horribly down if a defender holds four trumps and is able to ruff in early when declarer plays off his diamonds.

Reading's Janet Barnes played a spade to the ten at trick two, keeping control of the hand, come what may. With spades 3-2, this looked like a nice play in a losing cause. She need not have worried: Abingdon had stopped in Four Spades, and so Reading had gained 11 IMPs.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OGOPOGO
a. Soviet Secret Police
b. A bouncing stick
c. A water monster

RIS DE VEAU
a. Calf pilaff
b. The cow that laughs
c. Sweetbreads

POI
a. Coconut liquor
b. A leaf ball
c. A Polynesian language

SAMHAIN
a. New Year
b. A grain like barley
c. A Jewish month

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Oxford win

Three potential grandmasters were competing in this year's Varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge. Two of them, Jonathan Parker (Cambridge) and Dharshan Kumaran (Oxford) drew their game on top board. The third possible candidate, Oxford player Jonathan Rowson, won an imaginative game on board two of the match. The opening saw a rare metamorphosis from a closed version of the Sicilian Defence to a type of Benko Gambit, witness to the extraordinary flexibility of modern opening systems.

Black sacrificed a pawn on the queenside in typical Benko style, obtained open lines in compensation and then swept through the white position to force a convincing win.

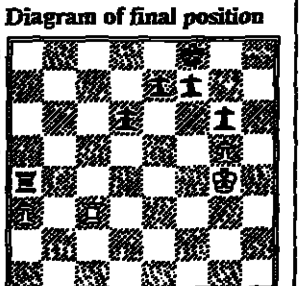
White: Matthew Turner
Black: Jonathan Rowson
Oxford v Cambridge
February 1997

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	g3	Nf6
4	d3	g6
5	Bg2	Bg7
6	0-0	0-0
7	Nbd2	Nc6
8	c3	b5
9	d4	Nd7
10	d5	Nce5
11	Ne1	Nb6
12	f4	Ned7
13	Nc2	Bb7
14	Re1	Qc7
15	Bf1	a6
16	c4	bxc4
17	Nxc4	Nxc4
18	Bxc4	Rab8
19	Qe2	Nb6
20	Bxa6	Bxa6
21	Qxa6	Ra8
22	Qe2	Rfb8
23	Ne3	c4
24	a3	Qc5
25	Bd2	Na4
26	Bb4	Qd4
27	Rad1	Qxe4
28	Qxc4	Qf3
29	Qe2	Qxe2
30	Rxe2	Nxb2
31	Rdd2	Na4
32	Nc4	Kf8
33	Kg2	Rb5
34	Re3	Bf6
35	g4	h6
36	Re4	Ra6
37	Kg3	Nc5
38	Bxc5	Rxc5
39	h4	Ra4
40	Rc2	Rxd5
41	g5	hxg5
42	fxg5	Bxg5
43	Ne3	Rxe4
44	Nxd5	Rd4
45	fxg5	Rxd5
46	Kf4	Rf5+
47	Kg4	Ra5
48	Rc3	Ra4+

White resigns

Diagram of final position

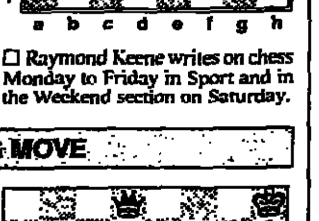


☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Brunner — Fuhrmann, German League 1997. The black rook and knight have invaded the white position and Black now capitalised by driving the white king to its doom. Can you work out the sequence that achieved this?



Solution on page 46

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 107 Toronto 103; Chicago 108 Milwaukee 90; Utah 111 Golden State 104; Sacramento 108 New Jersey 95.

BOWLS

YORK: EWIBA national championships: Pairs: Semi-finals: J Smith and A Harrison (Folkestone) bt S Rickman and M Stopher (King George Field) 21-20. S Mart and J Thomas (Nottingham) bt B Watford and K Strutt (Egham) 17-16 (after extra end). Final: Mart and Thomas bt Smith and Harrison 19-15. Two-wood triples: Semi-finals: Concordia (N Carroll) bt Lincoln (P Prisk) 22-7, Preston, Brighton (A Owen) bt York (P Napier) 18-17 (after extra end). Final: Concordia bt Preston, Brighton 23-10. Champion of champions: First round: J Wilson (Cumbria) bt D Pratt (Gosling) 21-16; M Monkton (Ilminster) bt V Mansell (Isle of Purbeck) 21-1; L Jarman (Cambridge Chesterton) bt D Wilson (Boston) 21-11, J Hadfield (Newquay) bt G Hook (Bentham) 21-15; P Murphy (Stanley) bt M Emment (Lakeside) 21-11; K Strutt (Egham) bt M Knight (Cheshunt) 21-8; S Rickman (King George Field) bt P Else (Essex County) 21-8, A Harrison (Folkestone) bt L Gray (Adur, W Sussex) 21-17. Quarter-finals: Wilson bt Monkton 21-17; Jarman bt Hadfield 21-11; Rickman bt Strutt 21-10, Harrison bt Murphy 21-19

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Kingston (final day of four) Jamaica 453-9 dec (L R Williams 102 not out, T O Powell 76); and 190-4 (L Garrick 108, J Adams 53 not out); India XI 323 (V V Laxman 99, R Dravid 86, S Ganguly 82) Match drawn

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): NY Rangers 5 San Jose 4 (ot), Toronto 4 Boston 2, Colorado 5 Vancouver 1

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Wimbledon 2 West Ham United 1.

Monday's late results
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Coventry 1 Wimbledon 1

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	28	16	9	3	56	31	57
Liverpool	28	15	8	5	46	21	53
Arsenal	29	14	9	6	47	26	51
Newcastle	27	14	6	7	51	31	48
A Villa	28	13	7	8	35	26	46
Wimbledon	27	12	8	7	39	32	44
Chelsea	26	11	9	6	41	37	42
Sheff Wed	27	10	12	5	34	32	42
Leeds	28	10	6	12	23	31	36
Leicester	26	9	6	11	32	38	33
Everton	27	8	8	11	34	40	32
Derby	28	7	11	10	30	38	32
Tottenham	27	9	5	13	30	38	32
Blackburn	26	7	10	9	27	25	31
Sunderland	27	7	8	12	23	34	29
Coventry	29	6	11	12	26	39	29
Nottm F	27	6	9	12	24	40	27
West Ham	27	6	7	14	24	37	25
Southampton	26	6	6	14	35	44	24
Middlesbro	26	5	7	14	31	48	19

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Emley 4 Guiseley 0

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Purfleet 2 St Albans 2.

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third-round replay: Dagenham and Redbridge 2 Morecambe 1 (after extra time; 1-1 at 90min)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Southampton 1 Arsenal 3

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn 2 Derby 1, Stoke 4 Leeds 0. League Cup: Group one: Burnley 2 Oldham 1

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Woolwich 1 Sheppey 0.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Español 0 Real Madrid 2

SCHOOLS MATCH: FA Premier League under-16 Trophy: Quarter-final: West Midlands 2 Nottinghamshire 1.

NETBALL

MALTA: Under-21 international tournament: England 39 Malta 7; England 21 Wales 21; England 50 Ireland 10; England 48 Northern Ireland 9.

COUNTY LEAGUE: Bedfordshire 41 Essex Metropolitan 38; Gloucestershire 37 Middlesex 45; Surrey 60 Hertfordshire 33; Warwickshire 52 Nottinghamshire 55.

RIFLE SHOOTING

SUTTON COLDFIELD: Inter-universities small bore (teams of six): 1, London 1,172pts (S Bailey 200); 2, Southampton 1,160 (N Benstead 198); 3, Edinburgh 1,151 (J Gray 196). International (teams of eight): 1, England 1,556pts (Bailey 199); 2, Scotland 1,539 (Gray 198).

BISLEY: Classic Revolver: 1, North London RC 580; 2, Historic Breech Loaders 554; 3, London & Middlesex 548, 4, South London RC 528; 5, Army Target Shooting Club 458.

ROWING

OXFORD UNIVERSITY TORPIDS STARTING ORDER: Men: First division (5.0): Oriel, Pembroke, Magdalen, Christ Church, Brasenose, New College, University, Worcester, Lincoln, St Edmund Hall, Wadham, Oriel II. Second division (4.0): Exeter, St Catherine's, St John's, Queen's, Balliol, St Peter's, Lady Margaret Hall, Trinity, Jesus, Keble, Osler-Green, Hertford. Third division (3.30): Merton, Wolfson, Linacre, St Hugh's, Balliol II, St Anne's, Pembroke II, Mansfield, St Edmund Hall II, Oriel III, Corpus Christi, New College II. Fourth division (2.30): University II, Brasenose II, Keble II, Magdalen II, Worcester II, Exeter II, St John's II, Somerville, Lincoln II, Lady Margaret Hall II, Wadham II, St Catherine's II. Fifth division (2.0): Queen's II, St Peter's II, Wolfson II, Oriel IV, St Anne's II, St Benet's Hall, Jesus II, University III, Hertford II, Keble III, Osler-Green II, Regent's Park. Sixth division (1.0): Magdalen III, Merton II, Lady Margaret Hall III, Wolfson III, Linacre II, Oriel V, St Antony's, Trinity II, Somerville II, Balliol III, Lincoln III, Corpus Christi II. Seventh division (12.30): University IV, Pembroke III, Brasenose III, Queen's III, Wadham III, St Catherine's III, St Hugh's II, St Anne's III, Merton III, Mansfield II, Corpus Christi III, Hertford III, Merton IV. Women: First division (4.30): Osler-Green, St Catherine's, New College, Wadham, Somerville, Pembroke, Oriel, St Hilda's, Christ Church, University, Lady Margaret Hall, Trinity. Second division (3.0): Brasenose, Lincoln, Hertford, Worcester, Wolfson, Queen's, Merton, Balliol, St Edmund Hall, Jesus, Exeter, St Anne's. Third division (1.30): Keble, Osler-Green II, St Peter's, Linacre, Somerville II, St Hugh's, Mansfield, Magdalen, Pembroke II, Magdalen II, Lady Margaret Hall II, Wadham II. Fourth division (12.0): Corpus Christi, Wolfson II, Regent's Park, St Catherine's II, Merton II, St Edmund Hall II, Lincoln II, Hertford II, Christ Church II, St Antony's, Wolfson III, Brasenose II, St Hugh's II.

BOSTON, Massachusetts: World Indoor championships: Winners and British: Men: Open: 1, M Siejkowski (Ger) 5min 39.7sec (world record); 4, G Searle (GB) 5:49.6. Lightweight: R Kreibich (Austria) 6min 05.3sec (world record). Women: Heavyweight: S Lauritzen (Den) 6min 36.8sec (world record). Lightweight: L Anderson (Den) 7min 05.4sec.

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg: Sydney to Cape Town (positions at 13:52GMT yesterday, with miles to Cape Town): 1, Toshiba Wave Warrior 5,755; 2, Save the Children 5,757; 3, Group 4 5,757; 4, Pause to Remember 5,759; 5, Courtaulds Intl 5,762, 6, Nuclear Electric 5,763; 7, Concert 5,766; 8, Commercial Union 5,768; 9, Heath Insured II 5,775; 10, Motorola 5,775; 11, 3Com 5,776; 12, Global Teamwork 5,777; 13, Time & Tide 5,780; 14, Ocean Rover 5,784

SPEED SKATING

INZELL, Germany: World Cup event: Men: 500m: 1, H Shimizu (Japan), 35.57sec; 2, M Hori (Japan) 36.76; 3, S Klevschenia (Russ) 37.11. 1,500m: 1, R Ritsma (Holl) 1:51.87, 2, M Hersman (Holl) 1:52.36; 3, K Shirahata (Japan) 1:53.82. 5,000m: 1, Ritsma 6:45.70 (track record); 2, G Romme (Holl) 6:49.44; 3, I Postma (Holl) 6:54.80. Women: 500m: 1, K Shimazaki (Japan) 40.30sec; 2, M Timmer (Holl) 40.38; 3, T Okazaki (Japan) 40.43. 1,000m: 1, Timmer 1min 19.15sec; 2, S Völker (Ger) 1:21.64; 3, F Schenk (Ger) 1:21.81. 3,000m: 1, G Niemann (Ger) 4:12.11; 2, C Pechstein (Ger) 4:16.44; 3, A Friesinger (Ger) 4:16.69.

SQUASH

SUPER SQUASH LEAGUE: ICL Lionhearts 2 Dunraven Maesteg 1 (C Walker bt P Gregory 9-6, 9-6, 9-5; D Evans bt D Harris 9-4, 9-3, 9-8; D Jenson bt C van der Weth 9-5, 9-5, 8-10, 9-7. Surbiton 2 Ellis Lingfield 1 (S Parke bt R Eyles 9-5 9-7 8-10 9-8, P Nicol bt J Bonetat 9-4 9-5 9-5, D Meddings bt S Meads 9-4 9-2 9-6

STOURBRIDGE: Mercia Open: Cannons Circuit semi-finals: M Cairns bt J Davis 9-5, 9-4, 9-0; L Beachill bt C Tomlinson 9-2, 9-3, 9-1

TENNIS

ROTTERDAM: Men's tournament: First round: A Radulescu (Ger) bt H Arazi (Mor) 6-2, 4-6, 6-3; D van Scheppingen (Holl) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 6-2, 6-4; G Raoux (Fr) bt S Simian (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; R Furlan (It) bt A Corretja (Sp) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; O Delaitre (Fr) bt J Eltingh (Holl) 1-6, 7-6, 6-4; P Korda (Cz) bt K Alami (Mor) 6-3, 7-5; J van Herck (Bel) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-4, 6-2.

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Men's tournament: First round: C Moya (Sp) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 3-6, 6-2, 7-6; H Gumy (Arg) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt T Haas (Ger) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. B Shelton (US) bt M Washington (US) 3-6, 7-5, 6-2. J Golmard (Fr) bt W Ferreira (SA) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

European Cup
Quarter-finals, first leg
Ajax v Atlético Madrid
Borussia Dortmund v Auxerre
Manchester Utd v FC Porto
Rosenborg v Juventus

FA Carling Premiership
Chelsea v Blackburn (7.45)
* Leicester v Aston Villa (7.45)
Middlesbrough v Derby (7.45)
Nottingham Forest v Sheff Wed (7.45)
* Southampton v Everton

Nationwide League
First division
Manchester City v Portsmouth (7.45)
Stoke v Grimsby (7.45)
West Bromwich v Southend (7.45)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Raith v Kilmarnock

Third division
Albion v Alloa

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland v Alfreton (7.45). First division: Bradford PA v Gretna.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midland division: Corby v Rothwell; Paget R v Solihull Boro. Southern division: Fareham v Weymouth

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third-round replay: St Leonards v Colwyn Bay

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth v Millwall (2.0); Charlton v Luton (2.0). Swindon v Bristol City (2.0); Ipswich v Tottenham (7.15). League Cup: Arsenal v Norwich (2.0); Oxford United v Bristol Rovers. Postponed: Portsmouth v Crystal Palace.

PONTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Oldham v Tranmere (at Stalybridge Celtic FC, 7.0). First division: Blackpool v Preston (7.0), Huddersfield v Sheffield United (7.0), Notts County v Wolverhampton (7.0); West Bromwich v Sunderland (at Halesowen Town FC, 7.0). Second division: Shrewsbury v Carlisle (7.0); Stockport v York (6.45). Postponed: Burnley v Bradford. Third division: Bury v Scarborough (7.0), Chester v Darlington (7.0); Walsall v Scunthorpe (7.0); Wigan v Doncaster (7.0). Postponed: Chesterfield v Rochdale

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Furness

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Calne v Chippenham; Mangotsfield v Backwell; Westbury v Odd Down

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta v Welwyn Garden. O'Brien McKenzie Butchers premier division Cup: Semi-final, second leg: London Colney v Buckingham Athletic

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Moir KA v Knowle.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: LCL Pils Cup: Fourth round: Billingham v Everwood, Durham v Bedlington Terriers; Shildon v Seaham Red Star; Whitby v RTM Newcastle. First division: Dunston Federation v Consett, Whickham v Guisborough.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Prescot Cables v Holker Old Boys; Rossendale v Atherton Collieries.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury Res v Hadleigh U

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Selsey; Whitehawk v Langney Sports

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Christchurch v Portsmouth

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Spalding v M Blackstone

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Hallam v Arnold

FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Leeds v Tranmere.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: London Cup: Buckinghamshire v Surrey (at Bisham Abbey, 7.0). English Snickers under-19 Trophy: Brookfield Community, Derbyshire v Wyke College, Humberside (2.0).

RUGBY UNION

Mobbs memorial match
East Midlands v Barbarians
(at Northampton, 3.0)

CLUB MATCH: Royal Navy v Cambridge University (at US Portsmouth, 6.0)

BUSA CHAMPIONSHIP: Men: Semi-finals: Univ of Wales, Cardiff v Loughborough (at Newbury, 2.30); Brunel UC v Wolverhampton (at Newbury, 7.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Second division
Bramley v York (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London v Crystal Palace (8.0), Leicester v Newcastle (8.0).

BOWLS: Women's English national indoor championship (at York).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague play-off: Group A: Newcastle v Manchester (7.0).

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RUGBY UNION

Scotland selectors repay players with rubber stamp

By Mark Souster

FOR the first time since the five nations' championship last year, Scotland have named an unchanged side, for the match against France in Paris a week on Saturday. Given the comprehensive manner in which Scotland beat Ireland last weekend, the selectors needed little encouragement to rubber stamp the XV, who will face an altogether more demanding task at Parc des Princes, where France will be endeavouring to secure their first grand slam since 1987.

However, the boost that Scotland received in the record victory over Ireland cannot be overestimated, even though, on reflection, several scores went begging, partly because of the conditions, which, according to David Johnston, the assistant coach, prevented Scotland from showing two thirds of their repertoire. That, together with two successive five nations' victories over France, means that they will be less cowed by the prospect of a trip to Paris than they would have had it been to Twickenham.

Although the turnover in personnel has been marked in the past year, there has been, according to Richie Dixon, the coach, a degree of consistency in team selection this season. The concerns have been more to do with positional changes and finding the right blend in midfield. With Alan Tait and Gregor Townsend in the centre, the selectors appear to have achieved that.

Dixon named an unchanged pack after losing the Calcutta Cup match and was rewarded with a forward display that surpassed expectation, but he will have noted the manner in which France confronted England in the scrums, and he accepted that this will be an area where the relatively inexperienced Scotland front row, which was not entirely convincing against a robust Ireland trio, will be sorely tested.

That aside, Dixon remains optimistic, pointing out that only three forwards survive from last year, and that it has taken time for them to gel. Glimpses of what Dixon aspires to were evident in the matches against Wales and England, but fell into place against Ireland, who, he said, had "expected to tear us apart up front, but found we turned the tables on them."

As for France, Dixon said: "They are a bit of a Jekyll and Hyde team. They changed their pattern of play when they went 20-6 down against England. They started to play the same game as ourselves, namely taking the game up through the forwards and mini rucks. France are dangerous when they flow and go.

"There is no team like them when they are playing with confidence, but we have a core of players who played against France in the past two five nations' matches and the World Cup game in Pretoria.

"The Scotland v France games have produced fast exciting rugby in the past. It was a superb match last season because France did not try to close the game down after we blitzed them in the opening 20 minutes."

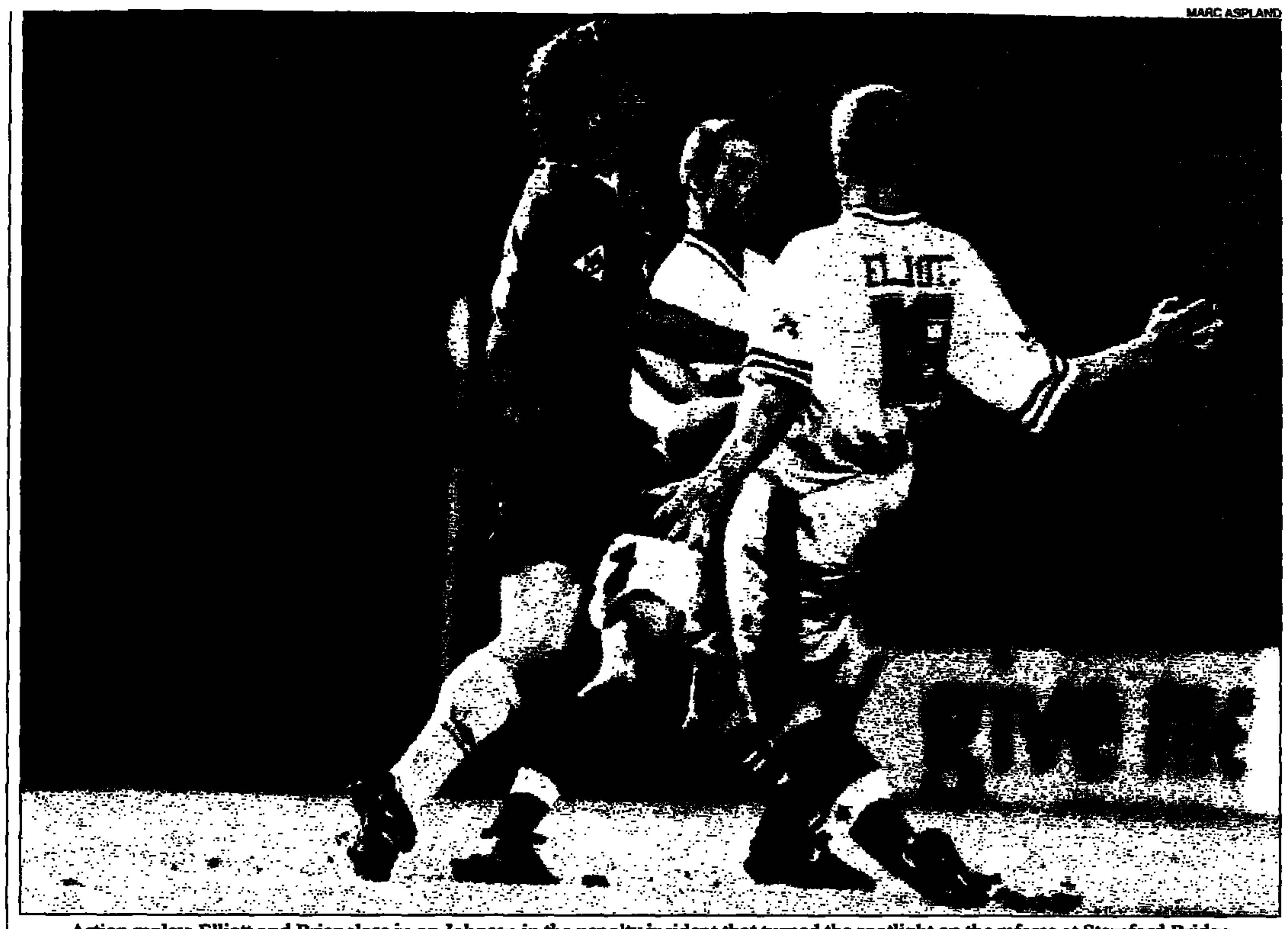
Abdelatif Benazzi, the France captain and blind-side flanker, could miss the match, having sustained a rib injury against England last Saturday. He has been unable to train this week with Agen, his club, and faces a race against time to be fit. With Fabien Pelous, the Dax No 8, also doubtful with an injured right hip, France may have to make significant changes to their back row.

☐ Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, yesterday blamed club rivalry for the number of injuries to the national team that are hindering preparations for the match against England in Cardiff on March 15. Wales have eight players needing treatment, which has forced Bowring to delay naming his team until next week. It had been due to be announced tomorrow. "I blame the intensity of the league programme and the tribalism that exists in the game in Wales," Bowring said.

SCOTLAND

To play France, March 15

R J S Shepherd (Melrose); A G Stanger (Hawick), A V Tait (Newcastle), G P J Townsend (Northampton), K M Logan (Wasps); C M Chalmers (Melrose), B W Redpath (Melrose); T J Smith (Watsonians), D G Ellis (Currie), M J Stewart (Northampton/Army), R I Wainwright (Watsonians/Army, captain), G W Weir (Newcastle), A I Reed (Wasps), I R Smith (Moseley), P Walton (Newcastle). Replacements: I C Glasgow (Heriot's FP), D W Hodge (Watsonians), G Armstrong (Newcastle), D F Cronin (Wasps), D I W Hilton (Bath), S J Brotherstone (Melrose)



MARC ASPLAND

Action replay: Elliott and Prior close in on Johnsen in the penalty incident that turned the spotlight on the referee at Stamford Bridge

FA ready to replace penalty row referee

By John Goodbody

THE Football Association yesterday said that it would replace Mike Reed, the referee involved in the penalty controversy at Stamford Bridge last week, for the FA Carling Premiership game between Chelsea and Leicester City on April 19 if it is asked to do so by police.

There are renewed fears for Reed's safety after his decision to award Chelsea the decisive penalty during the FA Cup fifth-round replay against Leicester.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said: "We have had no formal request from the police but, should we have one, we would obviously pay heed to any request regarding the safety aspect of things. If the police asked us to change the match official, it would be likely that we would pay heed to this request."

Reed outraged Leicester supporters by awarding a penalty to Chelsea, converted by Frank Leboeuf, their French defender, three minutes before the end of extra time. Even neutral observers were surprised at the decision, which gave Chelsea a 1-0 victory, with Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, describing the penalty award as a "disgrace". Leicester supporters attacked Reed's car as he returned home to Birmingham.

Police have already spoken to the FA, but a police spokesman said that the discussions had to remain confidential. Part of the area usually allocated to visiting supporters at Stamford Bridge is close to the tunnel used by players and officials, and Reed's safety could be jeopardised.

Leicester have not objected to Reed being in charge of the match. O'Neill said: "It is not our place to make the decision for the authorities. No matter what our feelings are, we cannot go round picking who is going to referee games."

However, Leicester fans remain outraged. A group of them is suing the FA for £140 in damages, plus expenses, because it is claimed that one of their number had to miss two days' work because he was so distressed by Reed's decision.

The incident occurred when Reed, standing five yards away, judged that Erland Johnsen had been fouled as the Leicester defenders, Spencer Prior and Matt Elliott, converged on him as he sprinted into the penalty area.

Last four go to extremes

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

AS THE grass roots of the English game have an opportunity to flex their muscles at the Rugby Football Union's special general meeting in Birmingham on Sunday, it seems appropriate that teams from the country's extremities should contest the semi-finals of the CIS county championship 24 hours earlier.

If Cornwall win their meeting with Cumbria at Camborne, their enthusiastic followers can recreate the invasion of Twickenham, on April 19, that was so endearing a feature of their final appearances in 1991 and 1992. On both occasions, crowds of more than 50,000 watched Cornwall as they beat Yorkshire, then lost to Lancashire the next year.

Some 9,000 spectators are expected to pack the ground for Cornwall's first meeting with Cumbria since 1984, though the visitors will have been encouraged by the selection of their captain, Mark Richardson, by the Barbarians for the game against Leicester last month. "It was the greatest thrill of my life and an occasion I'll never forget," Richardson, 36 and an ice cream manufacturer, said.

The chance to play in front of 11,000 at Welford Road was valuable preparation for Richardson, whose county has won the championship only once — as Cumberland back in 1924. He will have seven club colleagues from Aspatria alongside him. "Three days earlier, I'd played in front of about 150 for Aspatria against Hereford," Richardson said. "So, to find myself in front of thousands was quite something."

Club commitments involving Redruth and Camborne have deprived Cornwall of a substantial contingent of players; instead, they have turned to Launceston, who provide ten of their team including Danny Sloman, at full back, the county's leading scorer. Launceston are the leaders of south-west division one and their coach, Micky Stephens, has co-operated with Phil Angove, the Cornwall coach, in preparing for the semi-final on Saturday.

The West Country also stages the second semi-final, Somerset meeting Northumberland at Bridgwater. Somerset's only championship success was in 1923.

Northumberland rely on the Tynedale forwards, six of whom have been selected, while Alnwick provide the other two members of the pack and three backs. Paul Singleton, the Percy Park full back, has recovered from injury and will hope to go one better than his predecessors of 1995, who reached the final but lost to Warwickshire.

Mark Venner, the Weston-super-Mare back-row forward, leads Somerset, hoping to add to his previous Twickenham appearance — playing for Richmond in the Middlesex sevens. The county have an unblemished record in the championship this season, though they had to work hard to turn an 18-7 deficit against Hampshire into a 21-20 win in the quarter-finals.

☐ Michael Dods, who played on the Scotland wing last season, appears at full back for East Midlands in the annual Mobbs memorial match with the Barbarians at Northampton today.

BARBARIANS N Grecian (Newbury), K Logan (Wasps and Scotland), L Arbizu (Belgrano and Argentina), R Robinson (Coventry), D James (Bridgend and Wales), A Boyd (Richmond), D Scully (Wakefield), M Cuttitta (Milan and Italy), D West (Leicester), M Linnett (Worcester and England), R Martin (Richmond and Argentina), R Brown (Melrose), P Sporleder (Curupayti and Argentina), D Eves (Coventry), J Gardner (Treviso and Italy)

Hoddle faces dispute with club managers

By Our Sports Staff

GLENN HODDLE may be heading for a confrontation with FA Carling Premiership managers over England's hectic schedule of matches this summer. The announcement this week of a friendly against South Africa at Old Trafford on May 24, and the team's participation in a World Cup dress rehearsal tournament in France, has created a fixture list in which England will play five games in 18 days this summer, including a vital World Cup qualifier in Poland.

However, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, and Kenny Dalglish, in charge at Newcastle United, appear ready to withdraw their players from at least some of those games.

"The summer will be a rest for Manchester United players; it has to be," Ferguson said yesterday. "We start training on the fourth of July, while we could be playing our last game on May 28th. I don't know how we can possibly rest players unless we take those five weeks. I have some players playing on June 8 in World Cup games, which I can't do anything about. It's very difficult."

Ferguson said he has not yet discussed the situation with Hoddle — "it's too far ahead" — but he criticised the summer tournament, which also features Brazil, Italy and France, the hosts. "I once said to Terry Venables that I wouldn't play friendly internationals because I don't see what benefit you get from them," he said.

"You get players withdrawing, you can't play your best team and you get other ideas from playing the ones you wouldn't have picked. I don't see that there's any advancement.

"Over the last few years, we've played an average of 50-odd games a season and this year will not be any different. Add in internationals and friendlies and it's a heck of a strain on players. For young players, it can't be done."

☐ Wolverhampton Wanderers have appointed Dave Merrington, the former Southampton manager, as their new chief scout.

Little ready to run gauntlet

By Russell Kempson

HELL hath no fury like a football supporter scorned, as Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, is likely to discover when he revisits Filbert Street for Villa's FA Carling Premiership fixture against Leicester City tonight. The Leicester fans have long, unforgiving memories and will probably afford Little, the club's former manager, another frosty reception.

Little left Leicester in November 1994, amid much acrimony. It was not so much his departure as the manner of it that so enraged the Filbert Street cognoscenti. Little maintained that he had received no overtures from Villa, but was then installed at Villa Park only three days later.

When he returned for a league match, barely a fortnight after transferring his allegiance, supporters held aloft placards labelling him a "Judas" and "Liar". Little said: "It was arguably as hot a reception as anyone has ever had to endure in football. The ferocity of it really surprised me. I still get a bit of stick now and then, but time heals. Most people I have met individually have been fine. I don't think the reception will be as hostile this time, but I don't think all the Leicester supporters will have forgotten the situation, either."

Little's prime concern this evening is to cement Villa's push for a place in the Uefa Cup next season. They have won three of their past four games, including a 1-0 victory against Liverpool on Sunday, and have climbed to fifth place. "We know it will be difficult against Leicester, for all sorts of reasons, but we've got to get into the top four at some stage if we want to get back into Europe," Little said.

Little: hostile reception

Leicester's fears of relegation appear to have eased, although Marshall and Claridge, their strikers, could miss the game tonight because of injury. Nottingham Forest, Southampton and Middlesbrough, however, remain entrenched in the danger area.

Forest play Sheffield Wednesday at the City Ground, encouraged by their 1-0 win against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane on Saturday, while, at The Dell, Southampton take on Everton, who have won only once in their previous ten matches and who have only 16 fit first-team players. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said: "We need new players, we're still looking and I'm hopeful of making at least one new signing before the end of the month."

Middlesbrough's plight at the bottom looks terminal, even though the appeal against their three-point deduction — for the non-appearance against Blackburn Rovers — has yet to be heard. They must beat Derby County at the Riverside Stadium this evening to keep in touch with the pack above. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said: "We've got to start grinding out results."

EQUESTRIANISM

King content to head parade on personality

By Jenny MacArthur

MARY KING, the most successful horse trials rider in Britain last year, was named Equestrian Personality of the Year at the Spillers Awards at the Knightbridge Barracks, London, yesterday.

King, the mother of a 14-month-old baby girl, made up for a disappointing Olympic Games in Atlanta with an unprecedented run of success on her return. In less than two months she won the British Open at Gatcombe on her Olympic horse, King William, the Scottish Open and Burghley on Star Appeal and Blenheim on King Solomon.

King, 35, who is seeking a sponsor after Frizzell ended their two-year contract in December, has her sights set on the Badminton in May — the main selection trial for the Open European Championships at Burghley in September. King has only one ride this year, Star Appeal, who gave her an uncharacteristic fall at the first fence last year.

King: top rider

The Horse of the Year prize was awarded to the showjumper Geoff Billington's Dutch-bred gelding, It's Otto. The 42-year-old Cheshire rider's partner has become one of the most popular horses on the world circuit and was the British team's best performer at the Olympics, finishing sixth in the individual contest.

The Spillers Diamond award, a special award this year, went to the British paralympics team, winners of the gold medal in the Paralympic Games dressage event in Atlanta.

AWARDS: Personality of the Year: M King. Horse of the Year: It's Otto. Diamond Award: British Paralympic team. Spillers Scholarship: Show jumping: B Pallas. Dressage: L Beckett. Horse Trials: J Gibbins

SPORT IN BRIEF

IT WAS another turbulent day in the life of Sussex County Cricket Club yesterday. Richard Barrow, a member of the club committee, resigned in protest at the departure of five players and a "totally unacceptable" style of management at Hove. In addition, David Smith, the former England and Sussex opening batsman, has backed a scheme put forward by Tony Pigott, another former player, to oust the committee and replace it en bloc. Smith said: "Too many people are making excuses and in any other business they wouldn't have survived: they are obviously making mistakes."

☐ ***Badminton:*** The All England open championships will start next week with the lowest-ever number of British seeds. There are no singles seeds from the home countries, and only three British players -- all women — are seeded for the doubles. The favourite for the men's title, and No 1 seed, is Poul-Erik Hoyer, of Denmark, who is seeking his third successive All England title.

☐ **Sailing:** Lars Bergstrom, a leading innovator in the design and invention of yachts, was killed on Sunday when his plane crashed. Bergstrom invented the Windex, a wind indicator that is mounted on a ship's mast. He was 62.

☐ **Rowing:** Oriel will be looking to maintain the headship in the Oxford University Torpids, which start today, although Magdalen are likely to challenge them later in the week. Osler-Green, the women's head crew, face their biggest challenge from the outset, as St Catherine's, a strong eight, start directly behind them.

☐ **Athletics:** Sonia McGeorge pulled out of the Great Britain team yesterday for the world indoor championships this week. McGeorge, who was scheduled to run in the 3,000 metres, has been forced to withdraw through illness.

☐ ***Tennis:*** Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, equalled the fastest serve recorded on the men's circuit this season during his victory over Tommy Haas in the first round of the tournament in Scottsdale, Arizona. Philippoussis recorded 139mph, matching the mark of Greg Rusedski, of Britain.

☐ **Golf:** Gordon Sherry, the former British amateur champion, will make his debut on the Challenge Tour in Kenya next week. Sherry failed to gain his card for the European Tour this year through the qualifying school and will be looking for one of 15 places on the circuit for next season that are given to Challenge Tour players.

BOWLS

Endurance proving a vital ingredient

By David Rhys Jones

SUCCESS in bowls should be a reward for skill, not stamina, but the English Women's Indoor Bowling Association (EWIBA) national championships at York, where Sharon Rickman defeated Lynda Jarman 21-19 in the Champion of Champions singles final yesterday, have turned into a test of endurance for competitors who have qualified in more than one event.

Yesterday three of the singles semi-finalists were also engaged in the triples. Rickman and Jarman were required to play four games, which kept them each actively engaged on the green for around 11 hours between 10am and 11.30pm.

Ann Harrison, who was pipped by Jarman, 21-18, in the semi-finals, knew how they felt. On Monday she had toiled for 12 hours, rolling her first wood at 10am, and her last on the stroke of midnight. Yesterday she was let off lightly — just nine hours.

The programme, which was devised years ago and has never been revised, is designed to get through eight events in as many days. Each event takes two days to complete, but the task of getting a quart into a pint pot is achieved by starting a new event before the previous one has finished.

It is only when individuals qualify for more than one event that problems arise, and, such is the skill of the leading contenders, multiple qualification is becoming more common. Players have been penalised for their own success by being asked to play four matches a day, while others have to wait around until their scheduled opponents are available.

The EWIBA officials, who are not unsympathetic, are determined to address the problem. "We are all players ourselves, and have been looking at what has been happening through the eyes of the competitors," Liz Read, a junior vice-president, said.

Margaret Ruff, the England secretary, said: "We have a heavy programme to get through, and have to make sure that we keep to the timings as far as possible. We will be looking very carefully at future scheduling."

Results, page 44

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10/11 MAN. UTD. 11/5 DRAW PORTO 5/2

Old Trafford, Kick-off 7.30pm, Live on ITV.

CORRECT SCORE

5/1	MAN. UTD.	1-0	5/1	DRAW	1-1
7/1	MAN. UTD.	2-0	18/1	DRAW	2-2
7/1	MAN. UTD.	2-1	12/1	PORTO	2-0
16/1	MAN. UTD.	3-1	40/1	PORTO	3-1

Other scores on request.

FIRST GOALSCORER

5/1	SOLSKJAER (M)	10/1	BECKHAM (M)
6/1	CANTONA (M)	16/1	KEANE (M)
6/1	JARDEL (P)	20/1	JORGE COSTA (P)
7/1	DOMINGOS (P)	40/1	MAY (M)

Own goals do not count. Other players on request.

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CRICKET: NEW ZEALAND SQUARE SERIES WITH 28-RUN VICTORY IN FINAL ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

England miss out on fond farewell

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN WELLINGTON

GRAHAM CHADWICK/ALLSPORT

Thorpe, who made 55, the highest contribution to the England innings, is watched intently by Germon, the wicketkeeper, as he sweeps

WELLINGTON (New Zealand won toss): New Zealand beat England by 28 runs

IT MIGHT have been fatigue, it might have been the distracting lure of flying home after 14 weeks away. It might even have been an epidemic of headaches from the noisiest day of even this cacophonous, rock'n'roll extravaganza. Whatever was to blame, England could summon neither the concentration nor the resolution for the final obstacle of this tour.

New Zealand won the fifth one-day international, retrieving a share of the series and a measure of pride, because they were the more desperate side. England subsided without drama and will leave this country with slightly less admiration than should have been the case.

By winning the first two games, they at least ensured there was no possibility of this series undermining their emphatic success in the more important cricket of the tour, but by failing to win any of the remaining three, the first of which was tied, they have not only sacrificed cash and kudos but also reaffirmed how much work remains to be done on their limited-overs cricket.

England have batted second in all five of these games and experience has shown that they do not do this well. The damning defeats at the end of the Zimbabwe leg both stemmed from chases that lacked depth and conviction and the same has been true of the final two games here. Yesterday, challenged to make a relatively modest 229, they were never within hailing distance.

They are due a degree of understanding. No set of sportsmen can be on the road for this long, entirely separated from wives, girlfriends and families, without the onset of a demob spirit. It takes a particularly steely brand of professionalism to overcome such basic human frailty. With that said, the fact remains that England have done what they pledged to avoid, allowing the last days of the tour — the part most easily recalled — to be their downfall.

As they have not won an overseas one-day series since they were last here, five winters ago, this must rank as spurning a gift, for they had chances to win each of the last three games. Even without their best one-day combination — this tour party rightly being chosen primarily for Test cricket — they ought to have buried a team of limited talent and self-esteem.

After two months of subservience, however, New Zealand will celebrate a form of redemption in the brand of the game their public prefers. The Basin Reserve was packed to capacity by start of play yesterday and the Barmy Army had made a reappearance to add to the musical din that blared after every over. It is a shocking overkill of a perfectly sound commercial idea and, judging by the letters in the New Zealand press, it is alienating many long-standing cricket watchers.

England's final outing in the toothpaste strip, until Dubai in December, offered a compassionate consolation to the Lord Lucan of the tour, Jack Russell. John Crawley was also recalled for Nick Knight, whose broken finger has undergone surgery, but Dominic Cork was still absent, nursing a sore hamstring.

Andy Caddick, who has impressed ever more as a one-day bowler, took the early wicket of Bryan Young and it was a mystery how Nathan Astle survived an hour of hapless flaying against the swinging ball. Survive it he did, going on to score 94 from 129 balls and to earn his third man-of-the-match award in five games.

The symmetry of these matches can sometimes be tedious. New Zealand's 15-over total, for instance, has varied only between 75 and 81 and, on each occasion, they have lost their impetus once Robert Croft has begun to bowl his off breaks. Croft's first over here was a maiden and in his second, a drifting arm ball accounted for Stephen Fleming, who has little idea how to play him.

Chris Cairns, promoted in the order, was quickly caught behind, pushing at an outswinger from Craig White, and when Adam Parore was leg-before to the recalled Caddick, New Zealand were 122 for four, the initiative surrendered. The next partnership was arguably the one that won the game, Astle and Chris Harris playing with care and composure to add 75 in 17 overs.

From there, the innings declined rapidly, four wickets falling for nine runs. Astle missed out on the first century of the series when Michael Atherton plunged acrobatically at mid-wicket to hold a low, left-handed catch, and the beleaguered Lee Germon walked out to boos and walked back, an over later, to stony silence.

Half-time entertainment included the shaving of Ian Botham's head for charity, and the bizarre events continued when Atherton was bowled by the third ball of the England reply and set off to the pavilion before Germon informed him it was a no-ball. His luck held through a variety of edges, mis-hits and air shots and, despite losing Stewart and Hussain, both when set, the captain was somehow playing the anchor innings required.

He might have completed the job but for being run out when Graham Thorpe called him for a sharp single to the agile Harris. England then needlessly promoted Chris Silverwood to slog, with the usual impact of such a move, and thereafter nobody could stay long enough with Thorpe.

There were some tired strokes played as Harris bowled yet another hypnotic spell and Astle, coming on in his stead, picked up the proceeds. When Thorpe was stumped, only a spirited last-wicket whirl remained. New Zealand looked exultant, their season revived. England looked to the skies as if wishing their flight home could land a day early.

FULL SCOREBOARD FROM WELLINGTON

New Zealand won toss

NEW ZEALAND

B A Young c Russell b Caddick ... 11
(29min, 23 balls, 1 four)
N J Astle c Atherton b Caddick 94
(184min, 129 balls, 10 fours)
S P Fleming lbw b Croft 17
(50min, 34 balls, 3 fours)
C L Cairns c Russell b White 1
(4min, 2 balls)
A C Parore lbw b Caddick 18
(29min, 27 balls, 2 fours)
C Z Harris c Stewart b Gough 36
(81min, 51 balls, 2 fours)
*†L K Germon lbw b Silverwood ... 2
(5min, 6 balls)
D N Patel not out 16
(24min, 19 balls, 1 four)
G R Larsen run out (Croft) 0
(4min, 1 ball)
H T Davis not out 7
(13min, 11 balls)
Extras (lb 10, w 14, nb 2) 26
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs, 216min) 228
G I Allott did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28 (Astle 8), 2-84 (Astle 39), 3-87 (Astle 41), 4-122 (Astle 57), 5-197 (Harris 32), 6-200 (Harris 33), 7-206 (Patel 3), 8-208 (Patel 5).

BOWLING: Caddick 10-1-35-3 (w 3; 4 fours; 6-1-18-1, 2-0-4-1, 1-0-11-0, 1-0-2-1); Silverwood 10-0-53-1 (w 8; 4 fours; 4-0-25-0, 4-0-14-0, 2-0-14-1); Gough 10-1-48-1 (nb 1; 6 fours; 3-0-18-0, 4-1-14-0, 3-0-16-1); White 10-0-44-1 (nb 2, w 1; 3 fours; 6-0-30-1, 2-0-8-0, 2-0-6-0); Croft 10-1-38-1 (w 2; 2 fours; 5-1-17-1, 5-0-21-0).

Score after 15 overs: 77 for 1.

ENGLAND

*M A Atherton run out (Harris) 43
(106min, 82 balls, 5 fours)
A J Stewart c Patel b Allott 18
(37min, 23 balls, 3 fours)
N Hussain st Germon b Harris 20
(37min, 28 balls, 3 fours)
G P Thorpe st Germon b Larsen .. 55
(99min, 82 balls, 3 fours)
C E W Silverwood b Patel 4
(11min, 8 balls)
J P Crawley lbw b Larsen 11
(16min, 16 balls, 1 four)
†R C Russell c Germon b Astle 2
(6min, 5 balls)
C White c Germon b Astle 0
(2 min, 2 balls)
R D B Croft run out (Parore/Astle) .. 2
(14min, 8 balls)
D Gough c Fleming b Davis 16
(31min, 21 balls, 1 four)
A R Caddick not out 12
(17min, 13 balls, 1 four)
Extras (lb 8, w 8, nb 1) 17
Total (47.5 overs, 194min) 200

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-43 (Atherton 20), 2-77 (Atherton 32), 3-107 (Thorpe 18), 4-119 (Thorpe 25), 5-136 (Thorpe 31), 6-139 (Thorpe 32), 7-139 (Thorpe 32), 8-158 (Thorpe 47), 9-173 (Gough 6).

BOWLING: Allott 8-0-40-1 (nb 1; w 4; 5 fours; 6-0-30-1, 2-0-10-0); Davis 7.5-0-44-1 (w 2; 7 fours; 6-0-30-0, 1.5-0-14-1); Larsen 10-0-31-2 (2 fours; 4-0-16-0, 6-0-15-2); Harris 10-2-22-1 (1 four; one spell); Patel 7-0-29-1 (w 1; 1 four; one spell); Astle 5-0-28-2 (w 1; 1 four; one spell).

Score after 15 overs: 68 for 1.

New Zealand won by 28 runs

Match award: N J Astle (Adjudicator: D O Neely).

Umpires: R S Dunne and E A Watkin. Third umpire: D M Quested.

Referee: P J P Burge (Australia)

International series tied 2-2: First (Christchurch) England won by four wickets. Second (Auckland): England won by six wickets. Third (Napier): Match tied. Fourth (Auckland). New Zealand won by nine runs

☐ Compiled by Bill Frindall

Germon's dismissal no surprise

ENGLAND'S success on the second half of their winter tour had a predictable outcome here last night when Lee Germon was dismissed as captain of New Zealand less than two years after his rise from obscurity (Alan Lee writes).

Germon, who appeared to sense his fate throughout this one-day series, will be replaced by Stephen Fleming, at 23 five years his junior and the youngest captain of New Zealand, for the Test series against Sri Lanka that begins in Dunedin on Friday.

Fleming took charge during the final Test against England in Christchurch three weeks ago, when Germon was injured, and did enough to convince the selectors that he was ready for promotion.

For Germon, brought in to further New Zealand's quest for a cleaner image, there is no sentiment. He has also lost his place in the Test side and the wicketkeeping duties will revert to Adam Parore, the maverick of the team.

Ross Dykes, the convenor of the New Zealand selectors, said: "This is a decision taken on form alone. I am not worried about Fleming's inexperience after the demonstration of captaincy he gave in Christchurch."

Australia's spinners complete rout

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SHANE WARNE and Michael Bevan, with an irresistible display of wrist-spin bowling, hurried Australia to victory over South Africa by an innings and 196 runs at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday, ending the first Test before lunch on the fifth day.

South Africa, 302 behind on the first innings, collapsed from their overnight score of 99 for four to 130 all out in just over an hour, losing their last five wickets for three runs in five overs. Warne removed Jacques Kallis and Jonty Rhodes, the remaining specialist batsmen, to finish with four for 43 and Bevan polished off the rest to earn figures of four for 32. It was the first time South Africa had lost by an innings since December 1964, when England won the first Test in Durban by an innings and 104 runs.

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, said he was not surprised by South Africa's collapse. "I wouldn't fancy it if I had to bat a day against Shane Warne with 250 runs behind him," Taylor said. "He is pretty close to being back to his best. He got six wickets in this game, all top-order players, and we had the luxury of Michael Bevan to knock over the tail."

Taylor was almost blasé about the batting of Steve Waugh, who was named joint man of the match with Greg Blewett, his partner in a fifth-wicket partnership of 385. "If you look back at the stand you'd probably pick out Greg's shots as the highlights," Taylor said. "But Steve's value is that he never gives you a chance. He comes off after scoring 160 and he's genuinely disappointed at getting out."

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, said: "We were completely outplayed. We will have to raise the standard of our batting, bowling and even fielding by at least 200 per cent."

Kallis and Rhodes, the fifth-wicket pair, held firm for the first ten overs until Rhodes was trapped leg-before by Warne for eight. Shaun Pollock and Kallis were together for a further six overs before Warne bowled Kallis round his legs for 39, the top score of the innings. The outcome was then inevitable. Bevan accounted for the lower order with his left-arm spin, snapping up the last four wickets for two runs in two overs.

Lance Klusener and David Richardson were caught by Matthew Hayden at short leg off the first and sixth balls of Bevan's fourteenth over, and Allan Donald and Paul Adams were bowled without scoring in his next.

The second Test in the three-match series starts in Port Elizabeth on March 14.

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 302 (W J Cronje 76, D J Richardson 72 not out; G D McGrath 4-77).

Second Innings

A C Hudson run out 31
G Kirsten b Warne 8
J H Kallis b Warne 39
D J Cullinan c Healy b Warne 0
*W J Cronje c Healy b S R Waugh 22
J N Rhodes lbw b Warne 8
S M Pollock not out 14
L Klusener c Hayden b Bevan 0
†D J Richardson c Haydon b Bevan ... 2
A A Donald b Bevan 0
P R Adams b Bevan 0
Extras (b 4, lb 2) 6
Total 130

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-41, 3-46, 4-90, 5-108, 6-127, 7-128, 8-130, 9-130

BOWLING: McGrath 10-5-17-0; Gillespie 11-4-24-0; Warne 28-17-43-4; Bevan 15-2-32-4, S R Waugh 4-1-4-1; M E Waugh 1-0-4-0

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 628 for 8 dec (G S Blewett 214, S R Waugh 160, M T G Elliott 85)

Men of the match: G S Blewett and S R Waugh

Umpires: C J Mitchley (SA) and S Venkataraghavan (India)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

OGOPOGO

(c) The name of a water monster alleged to live in Okanagan Lake, British Columbia. "The old Indian name for the animal was Naitaka. The settlers' name for it is now Ogopogo, which is far more recent in origin. It is not, as some seem to have thought, an Indian word."

RIS DE VEAU

(c) A dish of sweetbread of veal. Erroneously *riz de veau*. "There are no great men except the inventors and the developers of science. All the rest amount to more or less *ris de veau* surrounding an Adam's apple."

POI

(b) A ball made of leaf and fibre attached to a string. A dance to the accompaniment of traditional songs, performed by Maori women and girls using such a ball. "The string of the poi was held in the right hand and the ball was twirled and beaten back with the left hand while various movements were made over the shoulders, to the sides, the thighs, the knees, the head, the poi balls being kept twirling in perfect time to the songs sung by the leaders."

SAMHAIN

(a) The first day of November, celebrated by the ancient Celts as a festival marking the beginning of winter and of the new year according to their calendar. Taken over by the Christians as All Saints' Day or Hallowmass. Scottish Gaelic *samhuinn*.

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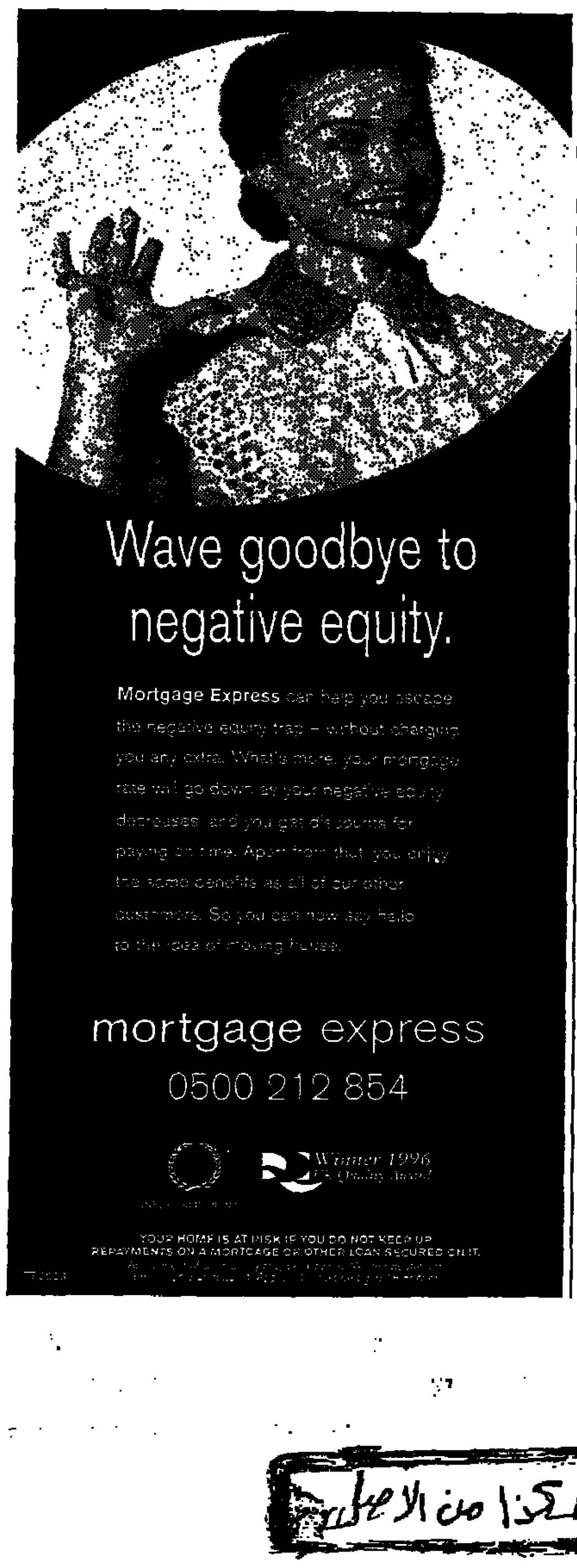
SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Schladming	30	40	fair	heavy	slushy	rain	9	4/3
(Snowing above 1,600m, rain below)								
St Anton	40	270	soft	heavy	art	cloud	7	27/2
(Snowcover wet and heavy, particularly low down)								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	145	165	good	heavy	slushy	fine	5	27/2
(Good skiing in mornings, slushy after lunch)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	90	350	fair	heavy	fair	fair	5	27/2
(Still generally good despite warm weather)								
SWITZERLAND								
Klosters	5	185	good	heavy	slush	sun	10	27/2
(Plenty of good snow at altitude)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial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RADIO CHOICE

Madeleine on trial again

Accused of Murder: My Beloved Husband. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

David Lean pronounced *Madeleine* to be his worst film. It did not excite him. I felt the same when I saw it in 1949. The reason I mention this is that *My Beloved Husband*, scripted by Pieter Rogers, goes over the same ground as *Madeleine*. In the Glasgow of the 1850s, Madeleine Smith went on trial for poisoning her lover, Emile L'Angelier. The trial caused a sensation and the verdict was an exclusively Scots one. Rogers's re-telling of the story dismisses the trial in a few lines. The film ended in anti-climax. So does the play, though it does try to be enigmatical. Emma Fielding plays Madeleine tensely, as she should. John McAndrew plays L'Angelier passionately, as *he* should.

The Cookbook of Apicius. *Radio 4, 11.15pm.*

Jim Miller's witty pen has written scripts which give television's comical cook Keith Floyd some golden opportunities to make much more of the Roman cook's recipes and philosophising than Apicius himself ever managed. After sampling such mouthwatering delicacies as doormouse on a stick, pigs' brain sausage, and stuffed bulls' testicles, the series ends tonight with roast parrot. The meat must be tender and in prime condition because, the cook tells his Greek slave / scribe Felix, it was said that mad parrot disease killed Caligula. The ghastly truth about these recipes is that every one of them is practicable.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe. Includes **7.30** Newsbeat **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley, includes **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Claire Sturgess **4.00** Clive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Chris Serle **7.00** Jim Lloyd with Folk on Two **8.00** Boys of the Lough *(2/4)* **8.30** Joe Boyd — *A World of Music* (3/4) **9.00** Anita Bhalla's Across Two Cultures: The journalist and broadcaster Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (3/6) **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **11.45** Salt of the Earth (4/7) **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **9.00** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson **7.20** Trevor Brooking's Football Night. *Commentary on the first leg of the European Cup quarter-final from Old Trafford between Manchester United and FC Porto. Includes the results of the National Lottery* **10.00** The Baker Line **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.05am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. News on the hour **5.30am** Europe Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.15** *Off the Shelf* **7.30** Discovery **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Concert Hall **9.07** World News **9.15** Andy Kershaw **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.30** BBC English **10.45** *Off the Shelf* **11.30** A History of British Theatre **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** *Composer of the Month* **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Megamix **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Concert Hall **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.30** Discovery **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian On Screen **10.30** World Today **10.45** *Sports Roundup* **11.10** Science View **11.15** Country Style **11.30** Multitrack **12.30am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** Assignment **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Meridian Books **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto Rosetti (Horn Concerto in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight **7.30** *Sonata.* Beethoven (Piano Sonata No 30 in E major Op 109) **8.00** Evening Concert. Beethoven (Overture, The Creatures of Prometheus), Beethoven (Violin Romance No 2 in F), Schumann (Fantasy in D major Op 17), Berlioz (Symphonie Fantastique Op 14) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Bach (Violin Sonata No 4 in C minor); Nicolai (Overture: The Merry Wives of Windsor); Ravel (Le Tombeau de Couperin); Wieniawski (Légende); (Ireland (Concertino Pastorale)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Strauss (Till Eulenspiegel); Ambroise Thomas (Je Suis Titania la Blonde); Mussorgsky (Pictures at an Exhibition)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines. Includes Poulenc (Sextet for Piano and Wind Quintet); Gluck (Die Frühen Grabe); Czerny (Variations on a Theme by Rode, La Ricordanza); Beethoven (String Quartet in F, Op 59 No 1); Gluck (Der Jüngling; Die Neisang); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Webern
12.40 Debussy. Brouillards; La Terasse des Audiences; Feux d'Artifice, Preludes, Bk2). Krystian Zimerman, piano
1.00pm Concert Hall. Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Orlando Quartet plays Kurtag (Microludes); Brahms (String Quartet No 3 in B flat)
2.00 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe. Includes Norman Cocker (Tuba Tune); Spohr (Octet in E); Vaughan Williams (Toward the Unknown Region)
4.00 Choral Evensong. Live from Exeter Cathedral
5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson
5.15 In Tune, with Jeremy Nicholas. Includes Balakirev (Islamey); Villa-Lobos (Bachiana Brasileira No 5)
6.00 BBC Rush Hour Concert. Introduced by Fiona Talkington. Pieter Wispelwey, cello, performs Bach (Suite No 1 in G, BWV1007; Suite No 3 in C, BWV1009)
7.00 Cocktails: I'm Old-Fashioned. The last in the series featuring recordings of London dance bands (9/9)
7.30 Towards the Millennium (Sounding the Century). Live from Symphony Hall, Birmingham. Lynn Harrell, cello, Electric Phoenix, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle. Berio (Sinfonia); Lutoslawski (Cello Concerto) **8.30** Radical Chic, by Tom Wolfe **8.50** Concert, part 2. Messiaen (Et Exspecto Resurrectionem Mortuorum)
9.35 Smart to Be Smart: Rick Stein. Well-known professional people look back at their student days
9.40 Little England, Big World. The international satirical magazine presented by Alistair Beaton
10.00 Voices. Richard Jackson, baritone, and Roger Vignoles, piano, perform Debussy (Fetes Galantes), Ravel (Sur l'Herbe); Roussel (Odes Anacréontiques); Ravel (Histoires Naturelles)
10.45 Night Waves. Michele Roberts investigates the uncertain world of plagiarism
11.30 Composer of the Week: Koechlin (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Richard Niles
1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) **6.00** News **6.10** Farming **6.25** Prayer **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek, with *Times* columnist Libby Purves and guests
10.00 News; Discursive Excursions (FM). Seasoned travellers recall their exploits. Two soldiers recount their ordeal when a military exercise went wrong in the jungles of Borneo (2/3)
10.00 Daily Service (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with Eric Robson (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch
12.25pm Rent, by Lucy Flannery (6/6) **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Accused of Murder: My Beloved Husband. See Choice (1/2)
2.45 The Vegetable Patch: The cabbage (3/6)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Gambaccini takes a look at Tom Cruise as a sports agent on the make in *Jerry Maguire* and explores U2's latest project, the album and tour entitled *Pop*
4.45 Short Story: Tourists, by John Burnside. Read by Tracy Ann Oberman
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Counterpoint. The general knowledge music quiz hosted by Ned Sherrin (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Global Shake-out: Mexico. *What happens when a country's economy goes global?* (2/4)
8.05 The Wardrobe. A look at the boiler suit through anecdotes and music (r)
8.15 The People's Peace. Three generations of a teaching family reflect on changes to the education system in the 20th century (2/6) (r)
9.00 Flashpoints: The Greenhouse Effect. *Professor* John Durant examines some of the most important scientific ideas of modern times (4/4)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Railway Bazaar, by Paul Theroux. Read by William Hurt (8/10) (r)
11.00 Truly, Madly, Bletchley. Last in the comedy series written by and starring Julian Dutton. With Liz Fraser, David Battley, Toby Longworth and Simon Godley
11.15 The Cookbook of Apicius. See Choice (6/6)
11.30 Seymour the Fractal Cat (FM). A comedy series about a talking cat by Gary Parker (3/5) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Hobbit, by J.R.R Tolkien. Read by Michael Hordern (3/15) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

[illegible]

A tense evening, but that's how it is; or was

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Clive James was having trouble with his narrative tenses. The big question was, would he get it sorted out by the end of **Clive James Meets Damon Hill** (ITV)? Answer: not really. But you know that. Ignoring the indefinite present offered by video recorders, the programme became firmly past tense last night. It's over, finished, completed — just like last year's Formula One season. We know what happened. James's challenge, however, was to bring that past back to something approaching *life and he did so using that special* tense known only to documentary-makers who fear their footage has been overtaken by events, a sort of conditional future past.

"Had Williams secretly fired him already?" he asked conspiratorially, his eyes audibly narrowing. Well yes, Clive, they had — we know that now. Just as we know about the Spa circuit in Belgium: "If he didn't *win there* his grip on the championship would grow white knuckles." You don't say.

All this enjoyable bluster, however, disguised a bigger problem. While many journalists would have killed for just ten minutes with Hill, James (who has somehow become the Mr Toad of the grand prix world) had been given two weeks. Private planes, private cars, even a day at Hill's private home in Ireland, Dunpayintax... like a *smooth-talking* spaniel, James followed him everywhere. The problem was, he'd got the *wrong* two weeks.

Nothing was resolved while he was there, as our man eventually admitted. "It was the end of my two weeks... three days later he was sacked." And a couple of races later, Hill finally got his hands on the world championship. Despite James's attempts to pretend otherwise, the rest really was history.

But there was probably just about enough here for Damon devotees. Hill showed off his guitars and gym and talked about his father and driving a Formula One car: "When it's going well, the car is dancing... you feel in touch with the molecules between the rubber and the road." Georgie Hill, his normally low-profile wife, was rather more fun, recalling the certainty of their first meeting. "I didn't like him and we had nothing in common, but I knew I was going to marry him." And reader, she did.

But having the most fun, of course, was James, never happier than when he's tucked into the slipstream of the ultra-rich and successful. Together they flew to Bulgaria, where "sponsors Rothmans were ready to welcome Damon's help in turning millions of unchained communists into chain-smokers". Later he triumphantly wriggled his considerable frame into the Williams car: "At least I had a racing driver's backside... even if I had a truck driver's stomach." Works just as well in the present tense too, Clive.

We were firmly back in the past historic for **House Detectives** (BBC2), which for a man badly missing *Time Team* suited me fine. For those who don't remember or never knew, *Time Team* is the Channel 4 series in which a team of archaeologists have three days to dig a site. *House Detectives* is much the same — without the mud. Three historians have a leisurely five days to discover the origins of a house, helped or hindered (depending on your view of the BBC's portfolio of interchangeable blondes) by Juliet Morris.

Last night's opener, however, was almost insultingly easy, involving, as it did, a striking Edwardian villa in Fulwood, an affluent suburb of Preston. Edwardian? Didn't that make it less than a hundred years old? It did. Easy-peasy — a couple of trips down to the record office and it was all over.

The flamboyant and turreted house had been built by a John Hodgson, not only a "plumbing, painting and paper-hanging merchant" as a helpful trade directory described him, but also councillor, alderman and eventually Mayor of Preston. Not exactly low-profile then.

Hodgson appeared to have used the house almost as a showroom, incorporating the very latest in stained glass and Anaglypta wallpaper. Once we had ascertained that and what the experts grandly thought of it ("frivolous, ostentatious, a little bit vulgar"), interest faded, only to revive right at the end. For having enjoyed more than 20 years of fake Jacobean splendour, Hodgson eventually retired to the real McCoy, the 17th-century Oxendale Hall. Now that really did look like a proper challenge for a team of aspiring house detectives. "Who needs Anaglypta now?" said one. Who indeed?

From the outset it seemed **Inside Story: A Deadly Secret** (BBC1) would be employing the past most imperfect to tell its sad tale. Jan Pink had gone to Cyprus to recover from the divorce that brought her 20-year marriage to an end. There she met and fell in love with a Greek fisherman... and contracted HIV from him. He knew he was carrying the virus, but never told her.

For about 90 seconds I heartlessly wondered whether the BBC would have made such a film if she had come back with one of the lesser sexually transmitted diseases — or indeed whether her extended family would have been quite so open about discussing it. But then we saw her ravaged face and emaciated body and such thoughts disappeared.

Carrie Britton's film was not perfect, in particular being over-reliant on her cousin's well-intentioned but misguided quest for "justice", which turned out to be legally impossible in Britain and unenforceable in Cyprus. We never were told what happened to the fisherman, but by the end of a very touching film that was as much about family as it was about Aids, Jan, miraculously, was back in the present tense.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (54650) **7.00** BBC Breakfast News (T) (66308) **9.00** Breakfast News Extra (T) (5414766)

9.20 Style Challenge (4761143)

9.45 Kilroy (4441308)

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (64768)

11.00 News (T) and weather (6467105)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (7079834)

11.35 Change That (8654766)

12.00 News (T), regional news and weather (7511834)

12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5552037)

12.30 Going for a Song (6822105)

12.55 The Weather Show (79993969)

1.00 News (T) and weather (69495)

1.30 Regional news and weather (83663414)

1.40 Neighbours (T) (11950921)

2.05 Police Rescue (T) (2418834)

2.55 As Time Goes By Comedy series with Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer (r) (T) (5285143)

3.25 Well Worth a Visit A journey 300 feet underground to experience coal mining techniques in the Welsh Big Pit Mining Museum (9400740)

3.30 Playdays (r) (5412650) **3.50** Chucklevision (5432414) **4.10** Popeye and Son (r) (1411940) **4.35** The Wild House (T) (5468327) **5.00** Newsround (3726230) **5.10** Blue Peter (7462871)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (701124)

6.00 News (T) and weather (259)

6.30 Newsroom South East (T) (211)

7.00 Noel's Telly Years 1983 saw comedian Tom O'Connor presenting *Name That Tune* and middle-distance runner Steve Cram winning gold at the inaugural World Athletics Championships (4143) (T)

7.30 Tomorrow's World The results of a painstaking operation by American archaeologist Denis van Gerven to reveal why more women than men survived famine in the Dark Ages (T) (495)

8.00 The National Lottery Live (T) (290834)

8.15 25 Years of the Two Ronnies A celebratory compilation (T) (338655)

8.50 Points of View (T) (458921)

9.00 News (T), regional news and weather (8940)

9.29 National Lottery Update (628389)

9.30 One Foot in the Grave A sultry widow sets her sights on the cantankerous pensioner Victor (r) (T) (49056)

10.00 Insiders Emotions run high when a Catholic priest kills a young boy in a car accident while rushing from his mistress's bed. With Julia Ford (T) (904679)

10.50 Sportsnight Highlights of tonight's FA Premiership derby between Leicester City and Aston Villa and Middlesbrough v Derby County. Plus the pick of the action from boxing's ABA National Championships in Birmingham (32181679)

12.25am Murder So Sweet (1993) with Harry Hamlin, Helen Shaver and K.T. Oslin. FILM A woman is convinced her smooth-talking *former husband is responsible for the* death of his latest wife, and persuades a detective to help prove her hunch. Directed by Larry Peerce (T) (2770254)

1.55 Weather (3938099)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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BBC2

6.00am Open University (7440766) **6.25** *Top-Down Design* (7452501) **6.50** The Statistician Strikes Back (9284230) **7.15** News (T) (7356921) **7.30** Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels (8117563) **7.55** Record Breakers Gold (r) (T) (3597037) **8.20** Teddy Trucks (r) (3852308) **8.25** Spot (r) (6228292) **8.35** The Record (5173921) **9.00** Jeunes Francophones (4749921) **9.25** See You, See Me (5424143) **9.45** Words and Pictures (7205679) **10.00** Playdays (11360) **10.30** Numbertime (7229124) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (7224679) **11.00** Around Scotland (9402360) **11.20** Music Makers (9302308) **11.40** Science in Action (9273582) **12.00** Spanish Globo (7519476) **12.05pm** History File (5550679) **12.30** Working Lunch (27834) **1.00** *The Geography Programme (47760495)* **1.20** Thunderbirds in French (66074360) **1.25** Zig Zag (47772230) **1.45** Come Outside (83640563) **2.00** Teddy Trucks (r) (27506037) **2.05** Spot (r) (27505308) **2.10** Everyone's Got One (2431785) **3.00** News (T) (9159827) **3.05** Westminster (4173940) **3.55** News (T) **4.00** Today's the Day (124) **4.30** Ready, Steady, Cook (308) **5.00** Esther (2921)

5.30 Seniors Pot Black Graham Miles v Rex Williams (360)

6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (562969)

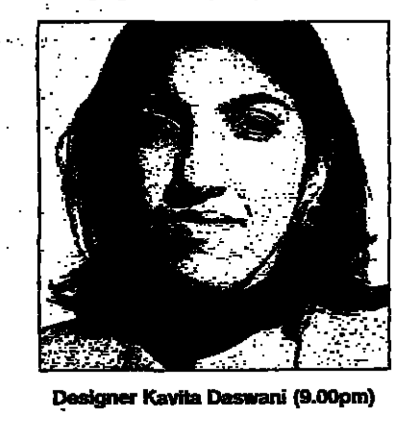
6.45 Trev and Simon's Transmission Impossible (141414)

7.00 Hancock (b/w) (r) (T) (2785)

7.30 Counterblasts Author Nigel Harris suggests that immigrant workers are one of society's vital foundations (T) (227)

8.00 University Challenge (r) (T) (8105)

8.30 Changing Rooms (5740)



Designer Kavita Daswani (9.00pm)

9.00 Modern Times: Hong Kong British and Chinese residents of soon-to-be-relinquished Hong Kong reveal their anticipation of imminent change (T) (678056)

9.50 A Woman Called Smith Echobelly's rhythm guitarist Debbie Smith talks about the strain of keeping up a long-distance relationship with her girlfriend (520308)

10.00 Even Further Abroad with Jonathan Meades The *Times* columnist looks at modern church architecture (T) (24259)

10.30 Newsnight (122196)

11.15 This Life (r) (374834)

11.55 Weather (820853)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (25902)

12.30am Learning Zone: O.U.: Chemistry of Creation **1.00** Chemistry of the Invisible **1.30** Chemistry of Creativity **2.00** GNVQ **4.00** English Heritage **4.30** Unicel in the Classroom **5.00** Health and Safety at Work **5.30** Voluntary Matters

CHOICE

Counterblast: Don't Fence Me In
BBC2, 7.30pm

Tonight's unfashionable opinion belongs to Professor Nigel Harris of University College London. He contends that far from being the time bomb waiting to explode of political and media cliché, immigration is a good thing. It has huge economic benefits, it releases entrepreneurial abilities and it revitalises cultural life. Harris has surprisingly little to say on his last point, which may seem to be his strongest. He leaves it to fleeting images to remind us of the immigrant contribution to sport and letters. But he argues fiercely enough on the economic front. Without immigrants, he points out, there would no Marks & Spencer, and he says that the economies of many modern cities would collapse if immigrants were not willing to *take essential*, poorly paid, jobs.

Travelog
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Pete McCarthy rounds off the current series in Costa Rica which, he promises, is a different kind of Latin America. Different, that is, from its immediate neighbours, Nicaragua and Panama, where all sorts of nasty things happen to innocent people. For one thing Costa Rica has long since abolished its armed forces which, as McCarthy shrewdly remarks, virtually eliminates the possibility of a military coup. Warming to the theme, McCarthy suggests that Costa Rica could give banana republics a good name. Whether this placid country will figure much on British holiday itineraries is another matter. As McCarthy presents it, Costa Rica has few roads, lots of bugs and an abnormal amount of rain. But it is a paradise for birdwatchers and the world capital of plastic surgery.

Modern Times: Hong Kong
BBC2, 9.00pm

Lucy Blakstad's film catches the mood in Hong Kong as the handover to China looms by focusing on five of the colony's residents. It is a simple formula but effectively executed, as you would expect from Blakstad whose previous documentaries in this series have covered flatmates, weekenders and the habitués of a London swimming pool. Her subjects this time are headed by Tom, an old *colonial who lives in a retirement home*, has no family left and does not trust the Chinese one inch. Also representing the older generation is Granny Kwong, who fled to Hong Kong to escape a brutal life in China and lives on welfare which she fears will be stopped. We hear, too, from Jimmy, a successful businessman, Kavita, a young fashion designer, and Jo, who spent four years in a Chinese prison after the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Even Further Abroad: The Absentee Landlord
BBC2, 10.00pm

Although he is a self-confessed atheist, as you will soon gather from this film, Jonathan Meades acknowledges the staying power of God and not least his houses. The topic for tonight, therefore, is church architecture but not as you have ever seen it treated before. After the brief excursion into the Gothic, both medieval and Victorian revival, Meades gathers most of his examples — targets would be a better word — from the period since the Second World War. As usual he is irreverent, provocative and contentious and supports his arguments with a firework display of verbal and visual gags. As usual too, it is not always clear where he stands. After seeming to heap scorn on most post-1945 houses of God he appears to praise a chapel by Basil Spence that some of us might dismiss as a concrete lump. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (6818582)

9.25 Chain Letters (4746834)

9.55 Regional News (T) (5538921)

10.00 The Time, the Place (48414)

10.30 This Morning (T) (42276430)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (7517018)

12.30 News (T) and weather (6840501)

12.55 Regional News (T) (6825292)

1.25 Shortland Street (47767308) **1.50** Afternoon Live (11965853) **2.20** Vanessa (58917360) **2.50** Afternoon Live (271940)

3.20 News (T) and weather (6250227)

3.25 Regional News (T) (7600768)

3.30 Tots TV (5410817) **3.40** The Blobs (9974650) **3.50** The Little Mermaid (5418834) **4.15** Dr Xargle (T) (1412679) **4.40** Cone Zone (T) (4358414)

5.10 Look and Cook (r) (5695495)

5.40 News (T) and weather (960940)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (728327)

6.25 HTV Weather (697018)

6.30 HTV News (T) (865582)

6.50 Emmerdale Frank struggles to cope with his loss (T) (601211)

7.20 European Champions League Quarter-Final, First Leg — Live: Manchester United v FC Porto Bob Wilson presents coverage from Old Trafford with commentary by Brian Moore (T) (70484230)

Beverley Callard as Liz (9.30pm)

9.30 Coronation Street *Fraser (Glyn Grain)* wants answers after the bungled robbery and subjects Liz (Beverley Callard) to an interrogation (34124)

10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (11785)

10.30 Regional News (T) (456872)

10.40 Taggart A writer who has made a name for himself in Hollywood receives a death threat, leading Taggart into a murky world of jealousy and deceit (r) (T) (514105)

11.40 European Champions' League Highlights Tony Francis presents action from this evening's quarter-final, first-leg ties, including reaction to Manchester United's match against Porto. Other games include German champions Borussia Dortmund v Auxerre; Rosenborg v Juventus in Norway and Ajax v Atletico Madrid in the Amsterdam Arena (922105)

12.45am Dating the Enemy (108780)

1.45 My Brother's Wife (1989) with John Ritter, Mel Harris and Polly Bergen. FILM Comedy drama a practical joker who has spent the last 20 years pursuing the woman of his — sister-in-law. Directed by Jack Bender (342070)

3.25 Sound Bites (73789983)

3.35 Not Fade Away (r) (8054902)

4.30 The Time, the Place (r) (T) (51490)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (37322)

5.30 ITN Morning News (20457)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6825292)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5695495)

6.25-6.50 Central News (802853)

1.45am Funky Bunker (104964)

2.45 The Chart Show (4413148)

3.40 Central Jobfinder '97 (655438)

5.20 Asian Eye (8427167)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.20pm-12.30 Small Talk, Big Talk (7517018)

12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6825292)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5695495)

6.00-6.50 Westcountry Live (540747)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (6825292)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5695495)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (809766)

6.20-6.50 Home Truths (704747)

5.00am Freescreen (37322)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7529853)

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6825292)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street. New Zealand soap set in a suburban health centre (5695495)

6.23 Anglia Weather (698747)

6.25-6.50 Anglia News (802853)

10.29 Anglia Air Watch (846018)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (47360)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (59018)

9.00 Bewitched (98834)

9.30 Ysgolion (470124)

12.00 House to House (18698)

12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (45230)

1.00 Slot Meithrin (52105)

1.30 Film: Blossoms in the Dust (1941) starring Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon. A weepie drama about a woman who starts an orphanage in Texas after losing her own family. Directed by Mervyn Le Roy (55888476)

3.20 Fresh Pop (5193719)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (785)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (292)

4.30 Wings (476)

5.00 5 Pump (4389)

5.30 Countdown (376)

6.00 Newyddion (335766)

6.05 Heno (706105)

6.35 Jacpot (604308)

7.00 Pobol y Cwm (832414)

7.25 Ffermio (107501)

8.00 Hawlio (6501)

8.30 Newyddion (2308)

9.00 Spin City (1650)

9.30 Roseanne (32766)

10.00 Brookside (355389)

10.35 ER (525211)

11.30 Caroline in the City (35940)

12.00am Under the Moon (735761)

2.30 NBA XXL (79631)

4.00 Ysgolion (4900631)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (47360) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (59018) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (T) (98834) **9.30** Schools (470124) **12.00** House to House (18698) **12.30pm** Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (45230) **1.00** Cybill (r) (T) (36487871) **1.25** Australia Wild Lord Howe Island (55837132)

1.55 Pennies from Heaven (1935, b/w) FILM Musical with Bing Crosby, Donald Meek, Edith Fellows and Louis Armstrong. A condemned murderer asks a troubadour to contact the families of his victims and offer them his abandoned house. Directed by Norman Z. McLeod (T) (89230501)

3.30 Collectors' Lot How frames can improve pictures, advice on acquiring toby jugs and collecting snowstorms (T) (785) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (292) **4.30** Countdown (T) (476) **5.00** Ricki Lake (T) (4389) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (376)

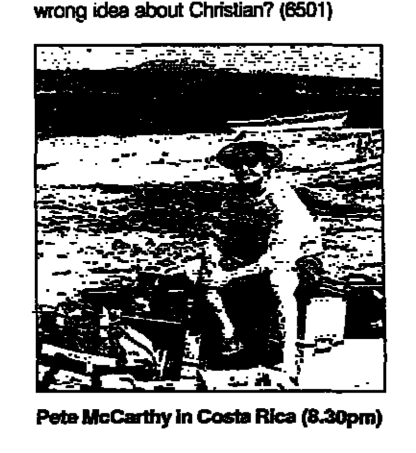
6.00 Party of Five Charlie sparks a boycott at his restaurant by his high-handed behaviour towards some homeless customers (T) (548389)

6.50 Fresh Pop (391582)

7.00 Channel 4 News (298292)

7.55 Winners and Losers (516124)

8.00 Brookside Bel contributes to the humiliation of Ollie. And has Katie got the wrong idea about Christian? (6501)



Pete McCarthy in Costa Rica (8.30pm)

8.30 Travelog In the last of the series Pete McCarthy visits *Costa Rica* in Central America which apart from its rainforests, volcanoes, hot springs and spectacular coastlines is *becoming the place to go for affordable* plastic surgery (T) (2308)

9.00 Fortean TV Lionel Fanthorpe, the biking priest, investigates more tales of the paranormal. These include a ghostly encounter in a pub and a woman who talks to fairies (6/8) (T) (1650)

9.30 Brass Eye Last in the comedy series with the satirist Chris Morris (32766)

10.00 ER American medical drama series Mark Greene discovers the truth about HIV-positive Jeanie (T) (8679)

11.00 Friends Phoebe discovers the surprising truth about her father and Ross manages to ruin Monica's festive party (r) (T) (3495)

11.30 Cheers Boston bar comedy series. *Rebecca throws a slumber party for* Carla, who is depressed at the thought of becoming a grandmother (r) (T) (35940)

12.00 Under the Moon Sports magazine (735761)

2.30am NBA XXL Basketball action (79631)

4.00 Schools (4900631)

4.50 Hogg's Heaven A short film about a man who wins a poetry prize after 14 years of toil. With Keith Gorden (r) (36414709)

5.15 Polygon An animated tribute to science fiction movies (8428896)

5.25 Backdate with Valerie Singleton (r) (T) (7230457)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (860018) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (24921) **10.00** Another World (80389) **11.00** Days of Our Lives (70373) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (79211) **1.00pm** Geraldo (95259) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (69921) **3.00** Jenny Jones (95785) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (74292) **5.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (8360) **6.00** Real TV (4850) **6.30** Married — with Children (8230) **7.00** The Simpsons (6389) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4414) **8.00** Sightings (27872) **9.00** Silk Stalkings (14308) **10.00** Murder One (17495) **11.00** Selina Scott (75921) *11.30 Star Trek: Next* Generation (69018) **12.30am** LAPD (26187) **1.00** Hit Mix (1199273)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (6121105) **8.00** Renegade (6130853) **9.00** New York Undercover (6127389) **10.00** Water Rats (6120476) **11.00** Late Show (6751679) **12.00** Hit Mix (9624419)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Running Brave (1983) (55037) **8.00 The Way West (1967)** (83501) **10.00 Airborne (1993)** (61292) **12.00 Attack on the Iron Coast (1968)** (73124) **2.00pm I Love Trouble (1994)** (32637) **4.00 Roller Boogie (1979)** (3292) **6.00 Airborne (1993)** (41696) **7.30** E! News Week in Review (9582) **8.00 I Love Trouble (1994)** (23056) **10.00 Forbidden Beauty (1995)** (265018) **11.40 Red Shoe Diaries: Hotline Gina (1995)** (658360) **1.10am Halls of Anger (1970)** (678867) **2.50 Angie (1994)** (488935) **4.35 Attack on the Iron Coast (1968)** (5899902)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Farewell to the King (1988) (53679) **8.00 Where the Red Fern Grows: Part Two (1991)** (81143) **10.00 The Man Without a Star (1955)** (69834) **12.00 My Brother's Keeper (1994)** (71766) **2.00pm Night of the Twisters (1996)** (32619) **4.00 Where the Red Fern Grows: Part Two (1991)** (1834) **6.00 Johnny's Girl (1995)** (19853) **8.00 Night of the Twisters (1996)** (21698) **10.00 Safe Passage (1994)** (256360) **11.40 Incident at Deception Ridge (1994)** (667872) **1.15am The Haunting of Seacliff Inn (1994)** (521998) **2.50 Le Jeune Werther (1993)** (390438) **4.25 The Man Without a Star (1955)** (425544)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm The Song of Bernadette (1943) (48291501) **8.35 Nadine (1987)** (19995563) **10.00 Nico (1988)** (9906246) **11.45 Something Wild (1986)** (1281037) **1.40am All That Jazz (1979)** (10482273) **3.45-5.10 Marx Brothers Go West (1940)**

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from **5am to 9pm**, then TNT films as follows.

9.00pm Night of the Iguana (1964) (98850650) **11.15 Murder, She Said (1961)** (75840872) **12.45am The Citadel (1938)** (62684693) **2.50-5.00 Night of the Iguana (1964)** (35255896)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.

6.00am Mouse Tracks (2579673) **6.25** Quack Attack (8529358) **6.50** Bonkers (3726582) **7.15** Little Mermaid (1047969) **7.40** Aladdin (2323679) **8.05** Mighty Ducks (3436495) **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa (6591871) **8.40** Care Bears (1817327) **9.10** Grounding Marsh (2236414) **9.40** Big Garage (8402495) **9.55** Lamb Chop (9224563) **10.25** Muppet Babies (5385563) **10.50** Dumbo's Circus (1219650) **11.20** Mouse Tracks (4863105) **11.50** Pooh Corner (1344940) **12.20pm** Timon and Pumbaa (8296501) **12.35** Little Mermaid (6828582) **1.00** *Best of Disney (1914056)* **1.50** Aladdin (62035105) **2.10** Darkwing Duck (53879211) **2.35** Bonkers (5115747) **3.00** Quack Attack (2433227) **3.25** Timon and Pumbaa (4168308) **3.35** Goof Troop (5141211) **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa (4262563) **4.10** Goof Troop (9598766) **4.35** Bonkers (5104037) **5.00** Aladdin (6046489) **5.25** Timon and Pumbaa (8609834) **5.35** Darkwing Duck (695124) **6.00** Mighty Ducks (2476) **6.30** Boy Meets World (6056) **7.00** Almost Home (6853) **7.30** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (560582) **8.15** Touched by an Angel (710650) **9.00** Life's Work (58292) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (17018)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (5598495) **6.30** Inspector Gadget (7760143) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (6775259) **7.30** Power Rangers (6754766) **8.00** Masked Rider (7752308) **8.30** Crocadoo (7731679) **9.00** Rimba's Island (5916230) **9.25** Why Why Family (2412230) **9.30** Zoobilee Zoo (3199018) **9.55** Why Why Family (5471326) **10.00** Rimba's Island (3237835) **10.25** Why Why Family (5348037) **10.30** Zoobilee Zoo (93072018) **10.55** Why Why Family (92124582) **11.00** Princess Starla (2283834) **11.30** Pinocchio (2284563) **12.00** Billy the Cat (7735495) **12.30pm** VR Troopers (29295969) **12.50** Power Rangers (29242877) **1.10** Masked Rider (25871785) **1.30** Ace Ventura (6527124) **2.00** Casper (4887037) **2.30** Life with Louie (9203768) **3.00** Eek-Stravaganza (4899872) **3.30** Ace Ventura (4253363) **4.00** Casper (9003560) **4.30** Power Rangers (9308312) **5.00** Masked Rider (4878389) **5.30** Spiderman (5603704) **6.00** Goosebumps (5653227) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (4158619)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (53872) **7.30** Wrestling (72563) **8.30** Racing News (66872) **9.00** Sports Centre (57124) **9.30** Aerobics Oz Style (93414) **10.00** Footballers Football Show (38563) **11.00** Hall of Fame (38414) **11.30** Watersiu Tour (39143) **12.00** Aerobics (37360) **12.30pm** World Motor Sport (720766) **3.00** Equestrianism (46327) **4.30** Sea TV (6259) **4.59** Sports Centre (6292360) **5.00** Wrestling (9872) **6.00** Sports Centre (9124) **6.30** Grass Roots Rugby (3196) **7.00** Inside the PGA Tour (4971) **7.30** Iron Woman (9360) **7.59** Sports Centre (709872) **8.00** World of Super League (69872) **10.00** Sports Centre (45389) **10.30** Futbol Mundial (54037) **11.00** Grass Roots Rugby (20495) **11.30** Inside the PGA Tour (95360) **12.00** Sports *Centre (70490)* **12.30am** *World of Super League (53070)* **2.30-3.00** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Beach Volleyball (56761785) **1.00pm** Golf Extra (43924389) **4.30** Footballers' Football Show (87971056) **5.30** Iron Woman (83944414) **6.00** Beach Volleyball (56767969) **7.00** Sports Centre (70898292) **7.30** Golf Extra (93236747) **11.00-11.30** Iron Woman (32428834)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Bobsleigh (30719) **8.30** Luge (22834) **9.30** IndyCar Grand Prix of Miami (16259) **11.00** Football: UEFA Cup (78834) **12.30pm** Slam Magazine (99698) **1.00** Snowboarding (87853) **2.00** Athletics (25501) **3.00** [illegible] (31495) **4.30** [illegible] Country [illegible] (21679) **6.30** Football: UEFA Cup [illegible] **7.30** Figure Skating [illegible] — Final [illegible] Snooker [illegible] Tennis ATP [illegible] **12.30am** [illegible]

Susan Sarandon, Sam Shepard: *Safe Passage* (Mov Ch, 10.00pm)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am [illegible] Tickle on the Tum [illegible] Music [illegible] **7.15** Tickle [illegible] Graham's [illegible] The Professionals [illegible] Romance [illegible] **1.00** Crown [illegible] Factor [illegible] **2.00** A Family at War [illegible] **5.00** The [illegible] Families [illegible] Street (6334969) **7.00** Doctor [illegible] in Charge (6404495) **7.30** Mixed Blessings (8353853) **8.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (7891292) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (7029747) **9.35** Good Life Guide (2085940) **10.00-11.00** The Professionals (7824143) From **11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors**

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From **6.00am-9.00** TV High Street From **9.00-12.00** Food and Wine From **12.00-3.00pm** Health and Beauty From **3.00-6.00** Home and Garden

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography: Robin Hood (8420230) **5.00** History Alive (3176853) **6.00** Our Century (6615688) **7.00-8.00** Biography Winston Churchill (4806389)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

6.00pm Keep on Trekkin' (3186230) **6.30 FILM: Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country** [illegible] **8.30** Making of First Contact (6671834) **11.00** The Invaders [illegible] **12.00** Incredible Hulk (8333411) **1.00am** Twilight Zone [illegible] **1.30 FILM: Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country** [illegible] **3.45-4.00** Making of [illegible]

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2379230) **9.30** Grow with Joe (2199037) **10.00** Two's Country Cooking (4756698) **10.30** Our House (2375414) **11.00** Fix It (5815327) **11.30** This Old House (5816056) **12.00** Versatile Vegetables (2386785) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2193853) **1.00** Today's Gourmet (8805872) **1.30** Home Again (2192124) **2.00** Hometime (4642105) **2.30** Furniture to Go (8774972) **3.00** Two's Country (4654940) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (8753389)

DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.

4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (8765124) **4.30** Bush Tucker Man (8781308) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4666785) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (8745360) **6.00** Wild Things (2101872) **7.00** Beyond 2000 (4646921) **7.30** Wonders of Weather (8762037) **8.00** Mysterious World (4662969) **8.30** The Quest (4641476) **9.00** Atlantis (3954698) **10.00** 21st Century Airport (3957785) **11.00** Warriors (8682921) **12.00** Classic Wheels (2094780) **1.00am** Roadshow (4771728) **1.30-2.00** The Extremists (6319438)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (6005921) **7.35** Neighbours (9860501) **8.00** Crossroads (1532476) **8.25** EastEnders (8803308) **9.00** The Bill (2348360) **9.30** Bread (2191495) **10.00** Never the Twain (4758056) **10.30** The Sullivans (2377872) **11.00** Shoestring (8603414) **12.00** Crossroads (2368124) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2195211) **1.00** EastEnders (5577227) **1.35** On the Up (3919143) **2.10** A Little Bit of Dawson (38191292) **2.25** Sorry! (7945495) **3.00** Tellystack (4663698) **3.30** The Bill (8755747) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (5808037) **5.00** Bob's Full House (6912999) **5.40** Crossroads (6805105) **6.05** EastEnders (8836150) **6.40** Ever Decreasing Circles (3997698) **7.20** Man About the House (7889056) **7.50** Are You Being Served? (1897834) **8.30** Russ Abbot (4643834) **9.00** The Bill (5897921) **9.30** The Paradise Club (10996969) **10.35** Bottom (3277785) **11.15** Hazell (1027476) **12.15am** Carrott Confidential (2885186) **12.55** The Best of TOTP (4370902) **1.25** Callan (93024419) **2.30** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Anne of Green Gables/Road to Avonlea (90414) **7.00** Dennis the Menace (58940) **7.30** Dennis the Menace (44747) **8.00** Batman (83817) **8.30** Art Attack (33358) **9.00** Flash Gordon (86650) **9.30** Bobby's World (22940) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (34872) **10.30** Robinson Sucroe (82834) **11.00** Danger Mouse (74230) **11.30** Gravedale High (82259) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (33394) **12.30pm** Halfway Across the Galaxy (33056) **1.00** By Way of the Stars (57211) **1.30** Black Beauty (32327) **2.00** Girl from Tomorrow (2501) **2.30** Ocean Odyssey (7921) **3.00** Art Attack (8308) **3.30** Flash Gordon (9766) **4.00** Batman (1501) **4.30-5.00** Big Dish (7785)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes (68389) **6.30** Count Duckula (13766) **7.00** Rocko (9987872) **7.15** Hey Arnold! (6092124) **7.30** Rugrats (30921) **8.00** Doug (65143) **8.30** Arthur (64414) **9.00** Children's BBC (55766) **9.30** Children's BBC (91056) **10.00** Wimzie's House (79178) **10.30** Babar (44650) **11.00** Magic School Bus (36056) **11.30** Henry's Cat/Wil Cwac Cwac/Lizzie's Library/Topsey and Tim/Jimbo (37785) **12.00** Bananas in Pyjamas (68230) **12.30pm** Little Bear Stories (95872) **1.00** Children's BBC (50785) **1.30** Children's BBC (94143) **2.00** Dr Seuss (4327) **2.30** Kissyfur (6037) **3.00** Wishbone (3834) **3.30** Stickin' Around (1582) **4.00** Bruno the Kid (7389) **4.30** Rugrats (8501) **5.00** Sister Sister (5679) **5.30** Moesha (8263) **6.00** Press Gang (7766) **6.30-7.00** Doug (8018)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm E UK (8143) **7.30** Roseanne (3330) **8.00** Roseanne (4563) **8.30** Monty Python (3698) **9.00** Cheers (16292) **9.30** Taxi (82306) **10.00** Garry Shandling (76259) **10.30** Frasier (52679) **11.00** Armstrong and Miller (28037) **11.30** Monty Python (26230) **12.00** Nurses (79032) **12.30am** Soap *(52983) 1.00 Cheers (35099) 1.30 Taxi* (41148) **2.00** E UK (96273) **2.30** Armstrong and Miller (75780) **3.00** Frasier (15235) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (66032)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (3921360) **9.00** The Burning Zone (3941124) **10.00** Tour of Duty (3944211) **11.00 FILM: Society** (6359056) **1.00am** The Burning Zone (5688308) **2.00** Tour of Duty (9083457) **3.00 FILM: Society** (2190761) **5.00** Robocop (6300631)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (2675766) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (3434786) **9.15** Gordon Elliott (8456872) **10.05** Jerry Springer (4500698) **11.00** Young and the Restless (8904327) **11.45** Super Fresco Fabulosous (44374921) **11.50** Brookside (8604245) **12.25pm** Why Me? (70607650) **12.55** Tempest (3292495) **1.40** Rolonda (9628308) **2.30** Agony Experience (2803292) **3.00** Live at Three (49202766) **4.05** Jerry Springer (5203259) **5.00** Super Fresco Fabulosous (37744872) **5.05** Lingo (84968747) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2814308) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (6980389) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (3578308) **7.05** Brookside (1550785) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (6579785) **8.05** Rolonda (8886230) **9.00 FILM: Murder: By Reason of Insanity** (84630582) **10.55** Sex Life (3929501) **11.25-12.00** More Sex Life

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Prize Time (8602921) **5.05** Blockbusters (1321476) **5.35** Prize Time (790143) **5.50** Spellbound (603143) **6.20** Prize Time (232230) **6.30** Catchphrase (598853) **6.55** Prize Time (128327) **7.05** Sale of the Century (637921) **7.30** Prize Time (142698) **7.40** Gives Us a Clue (448124) **8.10** Prize Time (300785) **8.20** All Clued Up (580834) **8.50** Prize Time (313785) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (838679) **9.25** Prize Time (282476) **9.35** Busman's Holiday (723308) **10.00** Prize Time (313230) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (207143) **11.05** Prize Time (228211) **11.20** Love at First Sight (129489) **11.45** Prize Time (112211) **12.00** Sale of the Century (23506) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (85693) **1.30** Lou Grant (17438) **2.30** Snowy River: The McGregor Saga (56490) **3.30** All Together Now (11506) **4.00-5.00** Fall Guy (50631)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** ZEE Morning **8.30** Maa **9.00** Ebar Jumbe Mawja **9.30** Abhinetri **10.00** Tara **11.00** The Low Cal Show **11.30** *Dance Mania* **12.00** *Daraar* **12.30pm** Sauda **1.00** Urdu **FILM: Dilan De Sauey** **4.00** ZEE Zone Presents **4.10** Public Demand **5.10** Alif Laila **6.00** Campus **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Kamal Kombination **7.30** Banegi Apni Baat **8.00** News **8.30** Dastaan **9.05** Pather **10.00** Hai Thi Hil Hai **10.30** Purush Kshetra **11.00** Mano Ya Na Mano **11.30-12.00** Antakshari

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews and live concert footage

VH-1

The video hits channel. Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds

RACING 43

Cheltenham braced for return of Carberry mayhem

SPORT

CRICKET 46

Warne and Bevan spin Australia to emphatic win

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5 1997

Football counts cost of wrong result

Rob Hughes on why there were no winners after the collapse of the Winchester trial

After seven weeks of evidence, 47 witnesses, 11 hours bar one minute of deliberation, the eight men and three women of the Winchester jury — the numbers that add up to one side in a football match — admitted that they were beaten. They could not decide whether the accused were guilty or innocent of conspiring to fix matches.

The reputation of English football has been left hanging in limbo by the failure of the jury to come to a verdict in the trial of Regina v Grobbelaar, Segers, Fashanu and Lim.

No verdict from the 11 jurors means no result for the game ... and so, where we might have hoped this morning that we would have known whether or not the values of an FA Carling Premiership match are incorruptible, we cannot now be certain.

It is the worst of all possible outcomes for the national game that, after the summer of 1996, had risen to a higher profile in English society than at any time in history.

Even the World Cup victory of 1966 did not engage the minds of Parliament, prompt the huge backing that has come from business, or induce the prolonged national euphoria that came with the European championship.

Winchester is a marvellously historic city. To reach the Crown Courts, one walks through ancient courtyards, and then into a complex of courtrooms as modern as any in the land: it is like a fresh hand inside a medieval mailed glove.

And there, since the trial began on January 14, the integrity of English football was questioned on a daily basis. Outside, at least five television crews found a perch overlooking the entrance to the court. Inside, in the corridors outside Court Room No 3, one witnessed people involved in other criminal trials actually walking up to Grobbelaar and Fashanu and asking politely for autographs.

A tranquil city went about its business and, in the dock, the personification of calculated impassiveness, two of this country's more famous goalkeepers, a silent gladiator who once scored goals fearlessly for Wimbledon, and a businessman from Malaysia, awaited their fate.

It is estimated to have cost £1½ million of public money, given the two years of police work, the engagement of barristers and Mr Justice Tuckey.

Last Thursday, when the judge began his complex and laborious summing up, I sat in the courtroom studying these four men. Each of them had origins outside this country: Lim is a Malaysian, Segers is Dutch, Grobbelaar fought in the Rhodesian army, and Fashanu, though a Barnado's boy, was born of a Nigerian father.

Their ordeal was evident as they sat before the court, though at lunchtime they became family men again, and two of them still played the Beautiful Game while out on bail.

What anyone who has any interest or love of football depends upon is that the game is decided in a fashion that cannot be corrupted. A game without a result is anathema; and yet in football the ruling bodies have concocted a process of deciding stalemates on penalties.

The penalty that is awaiting us now is that we cannot be sure of what we think we believe.

The fact that the Crown Prosecution Service indicated yesterday evening that they may seek a retrial means that, not only is the sport put into continued suspense, but that those who have listened to the prosecution and to the defence are not at liberty to discuss publicly the deeply disturbing exchanges.

Remember, the four men have denied everything and the premise of English justice is that a person is innocent until proven guilty.

How I wish that footbal itself could today be above suspicion. It is a wonderful game, it has given countless Englishmen, and increasingly, women, lifelong satisfaction. It has rewarded, players with the salaries of film stars, elevated them to a phenomenally high status in society. That attraction must be protected.

At the beginning of his summing-up, Mr Justice Tuckey had chosen a perhaps innappropriate Shanklyism. The judge told the jurors that "a famous football club manager" had once said that football was not a matter of life and death, but that it was more serious than that.

The judge was right to warn his jury that this was and is a serious case for the defendants, serious for football, and serious for all who follow it. But, M'lud, Bill Shankly actually never said all the words as alleged.

It was put to him that football was a matter of life and death. "Nae, son," he responded, "it is more important than that".

Nothing is quite what it seems, nor is likely to seem so innocent in our sporting world again.

Trial abandoned, page 1

Keane's injury leaves United hoping for best

By Our Sports Staff

ALEX FERGUSON has almost run out of superlatives when discussing Roy Keane. Cantona may be "inspirational", Giggs may be "brilliant", but Keane's is the first name on any Manchester United team-sheet. Keane is Ferguson's "most important player". The thought of losing him to injury is enough to have given the United manager an anxious night before his team reacquaint themselves with the European Cup this evening.

It remains the competition that United hanker after the most. Winning league championships has become almost a habit at Old Trafford, even the double is no longer unique, yet Europe's premier club prize has been won just once, in 1968, and this season Ferguson made no secret of the fact that he wanted to win that trophy more than any other.

Indeed, until yesterday, everything appeared to be going to plan. United had run into form, confidence was bubbling and the thought of meeting FC Porto, perhaps the best team of the Champions' League group stages, in the last eight was not as intimidating as it had been when United toiled through the autumn. Then Keane, the foundation upon which the rest of the United side is built, struggled through a fitness test.

If the Irishman did not fail it exactly, he did not pass it either and the ankle injury that is giving cause for concern remains a threat to his place against Porto. "I hoped he would have done better this morning," Ferguson said after putting Keane through his paces. "He didn't do badly, but it did not go as well as we wanted. We will leave things open and give him every chance tomorrow, but I would say he is doubtful now."

Ronny Johnsen, the versatile Norwegian, is standing by to take his place in a team that Ferguson believes is on a high. "The good thing from our point of view is that our players seem to get better at this time of the year. We didn't have the best of times when we played in the qualification for this stage, but we have gone on since then. We are four points clear in the league and we have gone 16 Premiership games without losing and that is phenomenal."

For their part, Porto have begun to show signs of frailty. After running away with the Portuguese league and brushing aside AC Milan in the Champions' League, their form has dipped a little, including a 2-2 draw with Estrela Amadora at the weekend in a match they would have won comfortably a month ago. Allegations of match-fixing involving their chairman, Jorge Nuño Pinto da Costa, have hardly helped morale either, but they reported no injury worries yesterday and Antonio Oliveira, their coach, professed to having extra motivation to beat the English champions.

"I have read in Portugal that Mr Ferguson thinks Oporto is a little village and that the Portuguese league is not very competitive," Oliveira said, "but as a player and a national coach I have experienced a lot of games and I don't see much difference in standard between the two countries.

"These little things are all ways that people have of trying to upset the opposition. It's all a game of chess, psychology. I will wait tomorrow to show my big move, but I will be fascinated to see how long my little Porto resist the power of mighty Manchester United." The smile that accompanied those sentiments suggested Oliveira expects his team to resist for a very long time indeed.

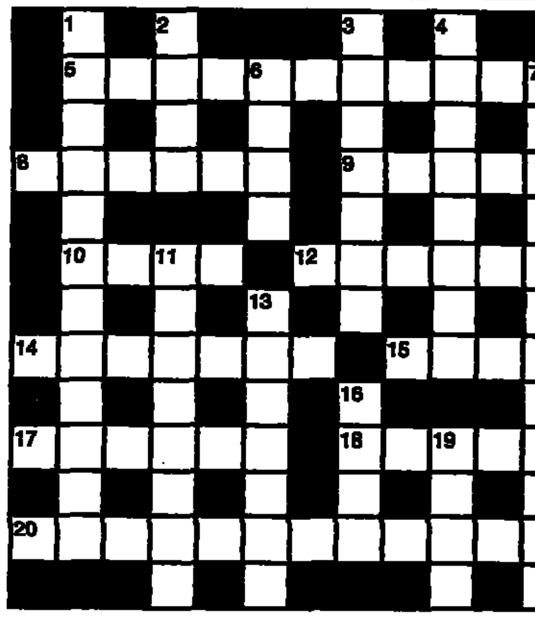
Keane: doubtful

His assistant, Joaquim Teixeira, was even more forthright. "We have done our homework very carefully. We have a great team and if it clicks, we will surely win."

Both men will place their faith in a line-up that may boast a Slovenian, Zahovic, a Yugoslav, Drulovic, and as many as five Brazilians, including Edmilson in midfield and Jardel up front, a striker described by Bobby Robson, the former Porto coach now in charge at Barcelona, as the "best header of a ball in the world".

"If Jardel is the biggest threat, them I'm not too worried," Ferguson said earlier in the week. "We've got Gary Pallister to deal with him and if Pally can't deal with him, then nobody can." Such confidence from the United manager can only be reinforced if Keane is declared fit to play.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1033

ACROSS
5 Place limits round (12)
8 African country: old coin (6)
9 S American blowpipe poison (6)
10 Player on North's left (4)
12 Schematic drawing (7)
14 A mollusc; a sinister power (7)
15 Assert as untrue (4)
17 Fisherman (6)
18 Association: old distance (6)
20 Tricky quibbling (12)

DOWN
1 Passive agreement (12)
2 Grain husks (4)
3 With eg telepathic powers (7)
4 Adjourn (parliament) (8)
6 Salt Lake state (4)
7 Gordon Riots novel (*Dickens*) (7,5)
11 Tobias —, 18C novelist (8)
13 Go rotten (7)
16 Jam up: footwear (4)
19 Similar, related (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1032

ACROSS: 7 Glue 8 Heraldic 9 Walker 10 Pixies 11 Moon 12 Superman 15 Keepsake 17 Vice 18 Slaves 21 Sanity 22 El Dorado 23 Teat

DOWN: 1 Al Capone 2 Beckon 3 Charisma 4 Drop 5 Elixir 6 File 13 Press box 14 Alcatraz 16 Pavlov 17 Vanity 19 Lulu 20 Shaw

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1028
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Dawn 3 Benjamin 8 Bilk 9 Penchant 11 Newfangled 14 Insane 15 Scrape 17 Sine qua non 20 Idealist 21 Miss 22 Pub crawl 23 Lean

DOWN: 1 Debonair 2 Wild West 4 Energy 5 Jockey Club 6 Moan 7 Note 10 Painkiller 12 Jaundice 13 Tennyson 16 Seesaw 18 Wisp 19 Herb

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ROSS SETFORD

Lee Germon, right, the New Zealand cricket captain, and Michael Atherton share the spoils in Wellington after the drawn one-day series. Report, page 46

Villa switch to Ferguson in search for striker

By David Maddock

WITH an eye on the looming transfer deadline, Aston Villa yesterday intensified their search for the forward they believe will strengthen their challenge for a place in Europe by moving for Duncan Ferguson, the Scotland international.

Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, has made tentative contact with Everton, Ferguson's club, to propose a £7 million transfer. A formal bid seems sure to follow before the end of the month.

Ferguson's form in recent weeks has been closely monitored and Brian Little, the Villa manager, was at Goodison Park on Saturday to watch him in action against Arsenal. He was encouraged by Ferguson's fitness after a number of injuries that have restricted his appearances.

Since arriving at Everton in 1994 for a fee of £4.4 million, Ferguson has managed just 57 appearances in three seasons and scored only 19 goals. More important, he has frequently failed to tune in to the same wavelength as Joe Royle, his manager.

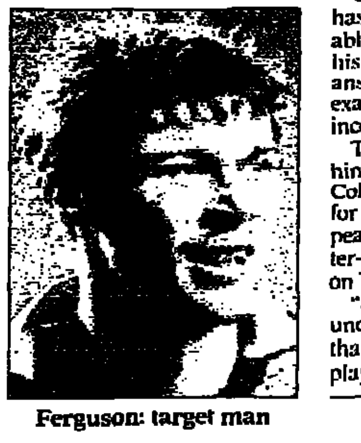
It is a situation that has offered encouragement to Villa, and the response yesterday from within Goodison Park was not unyielding. Ellis was told that Ferguson will not be allowed to leave immediately, not until the Merseyside club is safe from relegation, but could be sold should survival be assured quickly.

Royle has already allowed one expensive misfit, Andre Kanchelskis, to leave for a substantial fee and, given Ferguson's lack of goals, he may follow the same route again to allow funds to be released to strengthen the side.

A senior official at the club said last night: "Duncan has had mixed success since arriving at Goodison, and even though he is popular with the supporters, if the fee is right then it might be hard to resist."

Senior figures in the boardroom feel it is time for new faces to be brought in to ensure more goals and a more exciting style of play. Gary Speed, a midfield player, is top scorer this season with only seven goals.

Villa have been anxious for much of the season to bring in a centre forward to complement Dwight Yorke. Little, whose side has failed to do as well as expected in three cup competitions and has slipped too far behind Manchester United to harbour any hopes of winning the FA Carling Premiership, wants to ensure that Villa do at least finish high enough to qualify for a place in the Uefa Cup next season.



Ferguson: target man

He made a bid of £4.5 million for Stan Collymore, the Liverpool forward, last November but that failed because the fee offered was too low. Little has now changed targets, after a series of below par performances by Collymore.

He was able to watch Collymore at close quarters in the match against Liverpool at Villa Park last Sunday, but his interest would appear dead. Collymore has struggled to provide the sort of support for Robbie Fowler at Anfield that would make him the type of partner Yorke requires.

He has failed to settle on Merseyside and his lacklustre display at Villa Park could have ensured that he will become surplus to requirements at Anfield.

The 1-0 defeat caused severe damage to Liverpool's title chances and afterwards Collymore was involved in a public disagreement with Roy Evans, when he criticised the Liverpool manager for substituting him.

Collymore believes that he has not been given a reasonable opportunity nand aired his grievances yesterday. Evans, for his part, expressed his exasperation with the player's inconsistency.

The Liverpool manager hinted strongly yesterday that Collymore would be dropped for the first leg of the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final with Brann Bergen on Thursday night.

"Sometimes it is difficult to understand his motives, but that happens with a lot of players," Evans said.

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